

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no \_\_\_

Property Name: Jesup Blair House Inventory Number: M 36/6 M: 36-6

Address: 900 Jesup Blair Drive City: Silver Spring Zip Code: 20910

County: Montgomery USGS Topographic Map: Washington West

Owner: State of Maryland - Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Tax Parcel Number: N 310 Tax Map Number: JN32 Tax Account ID Number: 968588

Project: Takoma Park Campus Expansion Plan Agency: Montgomery Community College

Site visit by MHT Staff: \_\_\_no \_\_\_yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_

Criteria: X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G X None

Is the property located within a historic district? \_\_\_no \_\_\_yes Name of district: \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed? X no \_\_\_yes Determined eligible? \_\_\_no \_\_\_yes District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: National Register for Historic Places Nomination form and Montgomery County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Jesup Blair house is a two-story frame building set within the boundaries of the 14.46-acre Jesup Blair Park. The park is bounded by Jesup Blair Drive to the north, Georgia Avenue to the west, Blair Road to the south and the CSX Transportation lines to the east. A paved drive off Jesup Blair Drive leads to the front of the house. The house faces west onto Georgia Avenue.

The Jesup Blair house consists of a two-story, wood-frame principal block and two-story rear ell constructed ca. 1850. A one-story addition was appended to the rear ell ca. 1942. The house rests on a brick basement. The main block of the house has a square plan, three bays wide by two bays deep with a two-story ell constructed at the rear. The pyramidal roof is sheathed in standing seam metal. The eave is marked by a simple cornice. The rear ell features a front gable roof. The ca. 1942 one-story, wood-frame addition was constructed to the side (east) and rear (south) of the original building. The addition is connected to the ca. 1850 portion of the building by way of the rear ell. The gable roof is clad in composition shingles. The cornice of the addition is characterized by a single bracket at either end of the west elevation and gable returns. Both portions of the building are clad in wood clapboard siding with wood quoins. The current siding was applied over the existing siding when the house was altered ca. 1934. Exterior brick chimneys are located on southern elevation of the original house and the northern elevation of the addition.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <u>X</u>	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: <u>X</u> A <u>X</u> B <u>X</u> C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None
Comments: <u>The entire 14.46 acres should be included in the NR eligible site. Property also meets criterion B - because of Associations w/ persons significant in the past.</u>	
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services <u>Patricia M. Bick</u>	Date <u>4-15-02</u>
Reviewer, NR program <u>[Signature]</u>	Date <u>4/16/02</u>

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

M: 36-6

The Jesup Blair house is an example of a ca. 1850 Italianate house that was modified in 1934 to reflect Colonial Revival influences. The house was built on a portion of Francis Preston Blair's vast land holdings, in what was historically a rural section of Montgomery County. The house and 14.46 acres were bequeathed to the State of Maryland in 1933.

In 1934 the building was dramatically altered and no longer resembles the Victorian period house it was during the Civil War period. The significance of the house is through its association with Violet Blair Janin when she bequeathed the house and 14.46 acres to the State of Maryland. The Colonial Revival changes to the building are associated with Howard Cutler, a prominent local architect of public buildings. After the State acquired the house, the building was put to public use. It was during that time the building was altered to function as a public library. When the decision was made to turn the building into a public library, one of Montgomery County's most prolific designers of public buildings was contracted to undertake the work. Howard Cutler's design altered the building's architectural style from the Victorian period to the Colonial Revival.

The Colonial Revival style was popular since the early years of the twentieth century; the popularity of the style peaked during the 1930s with the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg. The style emphasized the simplification of ornamentation. This simplification can be seen as a reaction to the highly decorative and exuberant, multi-colored architecture that characterized the Victorian period. The Colonial Revival style was dominant in the Washington, DC region. Although it was primarily used on residential buildings, the style also was found on public buildings including schools and courthouses, and commercial buildings. The Jesup Blair house possesses integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, association, and materials to convey the tenets of Colonial Revival architecture and to be a representative example of the style. When the building was altered in 1934, the features that gave the building its Victorian characteristics were removed. Those features include the removal of the front porch and its ornamentation. Characteristics typical of the Colonial Revival style were retained. These features include the window trim and the entrance with its transom and sidelights. Colonial Revival detailing, such as the quoins, also was added.

The locally designated boundaries for the Jesup Blair Park include the entire 14.46 acres that was bequeathed to the State of Maryland. The National Register boundaries consist of 7.27 acres. Since the property was given to the State, changes in the setting have impacted the character-defining features of the property. Those changes include the contemporary construction of a football/soccer field and tennis courts. When these playing facilities were installed, many of the old growth trees that characterized the property were removed. The western portion of the park and the area immediately adjacent to the Jesup Blair house have retained sufficient integrity of setting, association, and feeling. This remaining grove of old growth trees contributes to the historic character of the dwelling. A clearly differentiated pattern of historical development (a rural, passive landscape versus an active public park) has emerged to delineate the setting's boundaries.

Kirsten Peeler  
Project Manager  
Goodwin & Associates, Inc.

Prepared by:

Date Prepared: October 2001

Jesup Blair House  
M36-6  
Montgomery County, Maryland  
Silver Spring  
Ca. 1850  
Public

### **Capsule Summary**

The Jesup Blair house is a two-story frame building set within the boundaries of the 14.46-acre Jesup Blair Park. The originally Italianate house was modified during the early part of the twentieth century. During a 1934 renovation, much of the Italianate detailing was removed and the building was altered to reflect the Colonial Revival style. The building's significance is derived from its association with Howard Cutler, a prominent local architect of public buildings. Of the Blairs associated with the property, Violet Blair Janin's contribution had the most impact on the Silver Spring community. Upon her death in 1933, she bequeathed the house and surrounding 14.46 acres to the State of Maryland for public use. After the State acquired the house, the residence was altered to reflect the Colonial Revival style.

The property possesses those qualities of significance and integrity identified in Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places and the Maryland Register of Historic Properties. The period of significance for the historic property is 1934 to 1957. The boundaries of the historic property encompass 7.27 acres, which include all resources and land that retains its integrity from that period.

Popular since the early twentieth century, the Colonial Revival style was a widely distributed architectural style. The popularity of the style peaked during the 1930s with the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg. The locally and nationally significant Blair family has owned the property since 1849. The house was constructed ca. 1850, with major alterations completed ca. 1934.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M 36-6

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic      The Moorings  
other      Jes(s)up Blair House (preferred)

## 2. Location

street and number    900 Jesup Blair Drive      \_\_\_ not for publication  
city, town      Silver Spring      \_\_\_ vicinity  
county      Montgomery

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name      State of Maryland – Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)  
street and number    8787 Georgia Avenue      telephone    301.465.4600  
city, town      Silver Spring      state    MD      zip code    20910

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.    Montgomery      liber    HGC5      folio    316  
city, town      Silver Spring      tax map    JN32      tax parcel    N310      tax ID number    968588

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation Site

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing      Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>1</u> ___ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u> ___ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	___ <u>1</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	___      ___ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u>2</u> <u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>1</u>

## 7. Description

Inventory No. M 36-6

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

### Summary

The Jesup Blair house is a two-story frame building set within the boundaries of the 14.46-acre Jesup Blair Park. The park is bounded by Jesup Blair Drive to the north, Georgia Avenue to the west, Blair Road to the south and the CSX Transportation lines to the east. A paved drive off Jesup Blair Drive leads to the front of the house. The house faces west onto Georgia Avenue. The western portion of the property is characterized by old growth oaks. The grounds behind the house are occupied by playing fields, tennis courts and a tot lot. Paved jogging paths cut through the park.

The Jesup Blair House was constructed ca. 1850. The original Italianate house was modified in 1934. During the 1934 renovation, the Italianate detailing was removed and the building was altered to reflect the Colonial Revival style. A rear, one-story addition was constructed ca. 1942. The house was renovated in 1991 to provide transitional housing for single parent families.

### Dwelling

The Jesup Blair house consists of a two-story, wood-frame principal block and two-story rear ell constructed ca. 1850. A one-story addition was appended to the rear ell ca. 1942. The house rests on a brick basement. The main block of the house has a square plan, three bays wide by two bays deep with a two-story ell constructed at the rear. The pyramidal roof is sheathed in standing seam metal. The eave is marked by a simple cornice. The rear ell features a front gable roof. The ca. 1942 one-story, wood-frame addition was constructed to the side (east) and rear (south) of the original building. The addition is connected to the ca. 1850 portion of the building by way of the rear ell. The gable roof is clad in composition shingles. The cornice of the addition is characterized by a single bracket at either end of the west elevation and gable returns. Both portions of the building are clad in wood clapboard siding with wood quoins. The current siding was applied over the existing siding when the house was altered ca. 1934. Exterior brick chimneys are located on southern elevation of the original house and the northern elevation of the addition.

The principle façade (west) features a single, central entrance, with a two step stoop. The entrance is framed by a wood pilaster on either side and an entablature. The six-panel wood door is flanked by two, four-light sidelights. Recessed panels are underneath the sidelights. An eight-light transom, with dentils below, is located above the door. The two, first floor windows, flanking the entrance, are twelve-light, double casement units. The second floor windows feature, three, six-over-six light, double-hung, wood-sash windows. Shallow peaked lintels cap the first floor windows. A decorative, recessed panel is located below the windows. The eave line is marked by a very simple cornice, which lacks ornamentation. A decorative ventilator is located in the middle of the roof.

The north and south elevations of the ca. 1850 building feature two, six-over-six light, wood windows on both the first and second floors. An exterior brick chimney is located on the southern elevation between, the two bays of windows.

A two-story ell extends from the rear of the original building. The north elevation of the ell has three, four-over-four light, double-hung, wood sash windows on the first floor and three, six-over-six light, double-hung, wood sash, windows on the second floor. The window ornamentation is the same as that found on the primary (west) façade's second floor windows. The ell rests on a brick foundation and is clad in the same wood, clapboard siding as the main section of the house. The gable roof of the ell is sheathed in standing seam metal. A four-panel wood door is located at the eastern end of the north facade. The transom above the door has been infilled. A hood is located above the entrance.

The ell's eastern elevation has one, six-over-six light, double-hung, wood sash window and two, two-over-two light, double-hung, wood sash windows on the first floor. At the first floor, a four-panel door with a three-light transom is located between the six-over-six and two-over-two windows.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Jesup Blair house  
**Continuation Sheet**

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Circa 1942, a one-story addition was constructed on the east and south side of the ca. 1850 structure. The addition is connected to the main portion of the house by way of the rear ell. With the exception of the twelve-over-twelve light, double-hung, wood sash windows found in the passageway connecting the addition to the original building, all windows in the addition are double-hung, six-over-six light, wood sash windows. On the east elevation, five small, six-over-six light, double-hung windows are located at the basement level and are located in window wells. A bay window is located on the addition's south elevation. The addition rests on a brick foundation and is clad in wood clapboard siding that matches the original building.

A modern, concrete ramp leads to an entrance located on the front (west) elevation. A four-panel, wood door features two, five-light sidelights and a four-light transom. A single bracket is found at either end of the eave.

In 1991 the house was rehabilitated to accommodate ten transitional housing units. Although the original center hall plan was maintained during the rehabilitation, as was the original staircase (which has been enclosed in a firewall and doors), banister, and treads and risers, little of the building's original interior features remains. Access was restricted to the public sections of the house, including entrance, corridors, laundry room, and offices.

The first floor and the basement of the 1940s addition originally consisted of one large room (Gwen Wright, personal communication 2001) which was divided and partitioned to accommodate the living units. Modern building materials have been used throughout. Although the original section of the house retains its original floor plan and room configuration, the interior integrity has been severely compromised. Aside from the staircase, few of the original materials or finishes have been retained. Some original elements may exist behind modern building materials that include carpeting, linoleum and new drywall.

The house exhibits three phases of construction: ca. 1850, ca. 1934, and ca. 1942. When it was originally constructed, the house was designed in the Italianate style, with a front porch extending the width of the house. Based on 1934 designs by Howard Cutler, the house was extensively altered and most Italianate detailing was removed. The front porch was removed and the exterior altered to reflect the Colonial Revival style circa 1934. Modifications include removal of four interior chimneys, changes to the ventilator, application of new, wood siding, and the addition of quoins. Not all of the stylistic ornamentation was implemented when the building was altered in 1934. Features such as a balustrade along the roofline and decorative panels below the second floor windows were not executed. Although the center hall plan was maintained, the interior was altered to accommodate a public library. The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) determined that the Colonial Revival style has obtained significance in its own right and that the structure should not be rehabilitated to reflect Italianate influences (Wright, personal communication 2001).

### Surrounding Landscape

The landscape is characterized by a mix of old growth and younger trees scattered throughout the property. Documentation indicated that there are currently 210 trees in the park (Edaw, Inc., 04/23/01).

The property currently functions as a public park. Contemporary tennis courts and a football field are located to the south of the house and a tot lot is found to the east. After acquiring the property in 1933, the State of Maryland constructed two small structures, a county administration building and an outdoor pavilion. These structures were built for the functioning of the park. M-NCPPC determined that both structures were non-contributing resources. They were demolished in 1999; only the pavilion's stone fireplace remains. The remaining fireplace is approximately twelve feet tall and is constructed with squared and coursed rubble.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

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Name Jesup Blair house  
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**Conclusion**

The house exhibits three phases of construction. The first phase comprises the principle building constructed ca. 1850. This section consists of a two-story, wood-frame building that rests on a low brick foundation. The building is three bays wide and two bays deep. It is square in plan and has a two-story ell constructed at the rear. The second phase of construction includes the 1934 Colonial Revival alterations. It was during this phase of construction that the building was re-clad and the interior finishes removed. The third phase of construction was the addition constructed ca. 1942. All the exterior walls are clad with clapboards. Aside from the central hall floor plan and staircase, little historic fabric remains in the interior of the building. The house is surrounded by the Jesup Blair Park, which consists of a mixture of old growth trees and modern sports facilities and playing fields. It is the last remaining residence that is still standing and is associated with the Blair family in Silver Spring.

# 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

**Specific dates** multiple years **Architect/Builder** Howard Cutler, architect  
**Construction dates** c. 1850, 1934, circa 1942

Evaluation for:

National Register  Maryland Register  not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Summary

The Jesup Blair House and Park posses sufficient integrity necessary for consideration for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C, the development history of Silver Spring and the broad historical trends in domestic architecture. The house was located on a portion of Francis Preston Blair's vast estate. The property derives its significance through its association with Howard Cutler, a prominent, local architect who redesigned the house in the Colonial Revival style. Popular since the early twentieth century, the Colonial Revival style was a widely distributed architectural style. The popularity of the style peaked during the 1930s with the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg. A Maryland Historical Trust Worksheet Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic Places was completed for the house in 1975. When the National Register Nomination form was completed, the period of significance was determined to be the nineteenth century. However, a statement of significance was not provided nor was a determination of eligibility made. The building and park were designated on Montgomery County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation in 1985. The house and the entire 14.46 acres that comprise the park were designated for the architectural character of the house and its association with the Blair family.

*made with RCSS/Blair*

### Property History

The Jesup Blair house was constructed ca. 1850 and remained in the ownership of Blair family members until 1933. The house was built by Francis Preston Blair at the request of his son James L. Blair. In 1933 Violet Blair Janin bequeathed the house and 14.46 acres to the State of Maryland.

Around 1850, James Lawrence Blair asked his father Francis Preston Blair to construct a house for his wife Mary Jesup Blair and daughter Violet (Smith 1980: 185). The house, originally called the Moorings, a nautical reference, was located on part of Francis Preston Blair's vast Silver Spring estate. On October 30, 1849 Eliza Violet Blair acquired 25 acres of land. She deeded the property to her husband Francis Preston Blair on October 31, 1849. In 1854, Francis Preston Blair conveyed the 25 acres and the house known as the Moorings to Mary Jesup Blair (Montgomery County Land Records Liber JGH 3, folio 286). Upon her death, Mary Jesup Blair willed the Moorings to her daughter, Violet Blair Janin. In 1933, the State of Maryland acquired ownership of the property after it was bequeathed to the State by Violet Blair Janin (Will of Violet Blair Janin). When the property was bequeathed to the State of Maryland, Violet Blair Janin's will stipulated that the name of the house change from the Moorings to the Jesup Blair house, in honor of her brother. The house has been used for the Silver Spring public library, a draft board and community center, as an apartment for the park's groundskeeper, and the Chelsea School (*Silver Spring Gazette*, 10/30/1996 and Michael Dwyer, personal communication 2001).

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Name Jesup Blair house

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Francis Preston Blair owned a large track of land in what is now Silver Spring and Takoma Park. He owned approximately 1,000 acres that extended over both sides of Georgia Avenue (Farquhar 1962: 282). The Silver Spring estate was constructed ca. 1842 (Sween 1984: 158) as a summer home. Silver Spring was located on a track of land known as Falkland Manor. Francis Preston Blair made it his primary residence in 1854. Francis Preston Blair's primary residence originally was Blair house, located across from the White House on Lafayette Square. The Manor included Silver Spring, Montgomery Blair's Falklands, and James Blair's the Moorings. Falkland Manor was reduced in size when Silver Spring and the Falklands were separated from the parcel (Montgomery County Equity Case Liber EBP 13 folio 356). As was typical of the time, the Blairs had primary residences in the District of Columbia and used the Maryland homes as summer residences.

James Lawrence Blair was one of four children (Montgomery, Elizabeth, and Francis Preston, Jr. (Frank)) of Eliza Violet Gist and Francis Preston Blair (1791-1876), the founder of Silver Spring. The Blairs were a politically active family, and various members played influential roles in both local and national politics. Francis Preston Blair was prominent during Andrew Jackson's presidency and was a member of his kitchen cabinet. Montgomery Blair was trained as an attorney and represented Dred Scott in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*. He was appointed Post Master General by President Lincoln. James Blair's sister Elizabeth married Lt. Samuel Phillips Lee, a member of the Lee family of Virginia. Well into the twentieth century the Blair family continued to be active in state and local politics. Elizabeth Blair Lee's son, Francis Preston Blair Lee, known as Blair Lee, became the first popularly elected United States senator from Maryland.

James Blair (1819-1853) was an officer in the United States Navy and served under Lt. Charles Wilkes on the United States Exploring Expedition, 1838-1842. Authorized by Congress in 1828, the purpose of the scientific expedition was to examine the coasts, shores, flora and fauna of the Pacific. In 1846 James Blair married Mary Serena Jesup (1825-1914), daughter of General Thomas Sidney Jesup, a United States Army officer who served in the War of 1812. After taking a leave of absence from the Navy, James Blair went to San Francisco, and, using money borrowed from his father, founded a shipping company that operated the first steamship line on the Sacramento River.

James and Mary Blair had three children: Violet Blair Janin (1850-1933), Jesup Blair (1852-1902), and Lucy Blair Wheeler (1853-1902). Although Violet Blair Janin was a Washington socialite and was involved in many charitable organizations, including the National Society of Colonial Dames, the National Society of the American Revolution, and the National Society Opposed to Women's Suffrage, little archival information has been uncovered on the life of her brother Jesup Blair, for whom the property is named. As was common of women in her social position, Violet Blair Janin was generous with her resources. Many charitable organizations were the beneficiaries of her will, including St. John's Episcopal Orphan Asylum, the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation, the Emergency Hospital of Washington, DC and the Episcopal Home for Colored People (Will of Violet Blair Janin).

Although all three Blair properties witnessed troop activity during the Civil War, the Moorings suffered the least damage. Silver Spring was ransacked and the Falklands was destroyed, whether by Confederate or Union troops remains unclear. Falklands was subsequently rebuilt in a different location. In summer, 1863, the Blair properties were the scene of Union encampments. As Elizabeth Blair Lee told her husband in a letter dated July 1, 1863, they had "50 men at the (h)ouse and 500 (c)avalry from Sunday night until yesterday in Mary Blairs lawn" (Laas 1991: 280). In July 1864, Jubal Early approached Washington after his engagements outside of Frederick, Maryland, at the Battle of the Monocacy and skirmishes in Rockville. Early originally planned a full-scale attack of Washington, but later altered his strategy. What resulted was a series of small skirmishes between Confederate sharpshooters and Union troops. After hostilities ceased, Early moved his troops out of Silver Spring and towards the Potomac River.

During his Washington campaign, Early made Silver Spring his headquarters. While occupying the residence, his troops ransacked the house and "left demijohns of good (o)ld Bourbon empty under the table and cleaned out the larder and poultry" (Laas 1991: 405). Elizabeth Blair Lee also reported to her husband that there was fighting from "Munsons house-Moorings up to Wilsons...." (Laas

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1991: 405). After the Confederate troops left Silver Spring, Elizabeth Blair Lee described the condition of the Blair properties. Elizabeth Blair Lee reported to her husband in a letter dated July 18, 1863 "so many dead buried near our front gate & others on Mary Blairs place..." (Laas, 1991: 406). The exact location of the buried soldiers is unclear. A preliminary archaeological reconnaissance of the Jesup Blair Park conducted in October 1999 and April 2000 did not yield any significant historic or prehistoric resources.

Despite its proximity to Washington, the Silver Spring area remained a rural enclave until the early twentieth century. Even though three major turnpikes and two trolley lines crossed the area, for the most part, Silver Spring comprised the estates of the Blair, Lee and Bonifant families. Silver Spring began as a summer resort for Washington D.C.'s elite. When a post office was established in 1899, the three communities of Woodside, Forest Glen and Linden were combined to become Silver Spring. The area did not experience much development until after World War I, at which point sidewalks were laid and streetlights installed. By the 1920s and 1930s, Silver Spring was rapidly changing as it experienced tremendous development. E. Brook Lee, speaker of the House of Delegates and Blair Lee's son, was influential in the development and growth of Silver Spring. His development company, North Washington Realty Company, designed several developments including Northgate, Colonial Village, Sligo and Sligo Park Hills (Walston 1984: 2). Brooke Lee also laid out a subdivision on 19 acres of the Gist Blair (his father's first cousin) property in 1921 (Walston 1984: 2).

In 1933 Violet Blair Janin left the house and surrounding 14.46 acres to the State of Maryland. After acquiring the property, the State commissioned local architect Howard Cutler to convert the residence into a public library. Educated at the Mechanics Art Institute, Cutler began his career Washington in 1906 with the firm of Culter & Moss, after working in Rochester, New York. He opened his own practice in 1923. From the mid-1920s to the mid-1940s, Culter was Montgomery County's primary architect for public buildings and schools. His work in Montgomery County includes Montgomery Blair High School (1935), Chevy Chase Elementary School (1930), Garrett Park School (1927-28) and Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (1930). His work was completed during a period of growth and development in the surrounding suburbs of Washington, including Silver Spring.

After the State of Maryland acquired the property in 1933, plans were developed to convert the grounds surrounding the Jesup Blair house into a public park. Irving C. Root, chief engineer, and T. C. Jeffers, landscape contractor, developed the plans. Proposed park features included an outdoor theater, council ring, tennis, basketball and volleyball courts, and children's playground. Of the improvements proposed, only the tennis courts planned for the southeast corner (at the junction of Georgia Avenue and the CSX railroad tracks) of the parcel have been installed in the location proposed. Of the remaining features, the outdoor theater and council ring were not built. The location proposed for the tennis, basketball and volleyball courts, is now occupied by the existing football and soccer field.

### Conclusion

The Jesup Blair House at 900 Jesup Blair Drive is an example of a ca. 1850 Italianate house that was modified in 1934 to reflect Colonial Revival influences. The house was built on a portion of Francis Preston Blair's vast land holdings, in what was historically a rural section of Montgomery County. The house and 14.46 acres were bequeathed to the State of Maryland when the Silver Spring area of Montgomery County was experiencing a period of rapid growth and commercialization.

Historical research indicates that the appropriate historic context for the evaluation of the house and grounds is the suburbanization of Silver Spring and the broad historical trends in domestic architecture (Criteria A & C). The house was constructed for a member of the Blair family, a family significant at the local, state and national levels. However, the building's significance is derived from its association with local architect Howard Cutler. Of the Blairs associated with the property, Violet Blair Janin's contribution had the most impact on the Silver Spring community. She was involved with a variety of charitable organizations, many of which benefited

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from her generosity when she died. When she died, Violet Blair Janin donated the Moorings and the surrounding 14.46 acres to the State of Maryland for public use (Will of Violet Blair Janin).

The property played a minor role during the Civil War and was witness to activity by both Union (in 1863) and Confederate (during the Defense of Washington, 1864) soldiers. In 1934, the building was altered to reflect the architectural design sensibilities of the time: the Colonial Revival period. The removal of Italianate detailing and the substantial front porch erased physical evidence that this building is a ca. 1850's structure. Although the house retains its central hall plan and staircase, little of the original interior features and finishes remain.

### Dwelling

In 1934 the building was dramatically altered and no longer resembles the Victorian period house it was during the Civil War period. Therefore, the building's association can not derive from the minor role it played during the Defense of Washington. The significance of the house is through its association with Violet Blair Janin when she bequeathed the house and 14.46 acres to the State of Maryland. The Colonial Revival changes to the building are associated with Howard Cutler, a prominent local architect of public buildings. The historic context for the house derives from its significance to Montgomery County in the areas of community planning and architecture. The period between 1934 to 1957 is the period of significance associated with the property. After the State acquired the house, and in accordance with the will of Violet Blair Janin, the building was put to public use. It was during that time the building was altered to function as a public library. When the decision was made to turn the building into a public library, one of Montgomery County's most prolific designers of public buildings was contracted to undertake the work. Howard Cutler's design altered the building's architectural style from the Victorian period to the Colonial Revival.

The Colonial Revival style was popular since the early years of the twentieth century; the popularity of the style peaked during the 1930s with the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg. The style emphasized the simplification of ornamentation. This simplification can be seen as a reaction to the highly decorative and exuberant, multi-colored architecture that characterized the Victorian period. The Colonial Revival style was dominant in the Washington, DC region. Although it was primarily used on residential buildings, the style also was found on public buildings including schools and courthouses, and commercial buildings. The Jesup Blair house possesses integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, association, and materials to convey the tenants of Colonial Revival architecture and to be a representative example of the style. When the building was altered in 1934, the features that gave the building its Victorian characteristics were removed. Those features include the removal of the front porch and its ornamentation. Characteristics typical of the Colonial Revival style were retained. These features include the window trim and the entrance with its transom and sidelights. Colonial Revival detailing, such as the quoins, also was added.

### Surrounding Landscape

The locally designated environmental setting for the house includes the entire 14.46 acres that were bequeathed to the State of Maryland. The National Register boundaries and boundary for the Maryland Register of Historic Properties for the Jesup Blair Park comprise 7.27 acres. The National Register boundary was defined to include significant resources and land that retain its integrity from the first half of the twentieth century. This boundary excludes areas of contemporary recreational development. This modern development includes tennis courts, and football and soccer fields, which were added in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Violet Blair Janin's will stipulated that some trees could be removed so that a park could be created. The degree to which the old growth trees have been removed has diminished the setting that characterized the property at the time of the donation. Since the

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. M 36-6

Name Jesup Blair house  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 4

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property was given to the State, changes in the setting have impacted the character-defining features of the property. After the property was given to the State, the setting was altered so that the property could function as a public park. As stated in her will, she gave

the remaining portion of my farm, "The Moorings" near Silver Spring, Montgomery County, State of Maryland, from the trees fronting on the Brookeville Pike and the road on the south, together with all improvements thereon, unto the State of Maryland, for the establishment of a public park thereon, in memory of my beloved brother, Jesup Blair, subject to the following conditions:

...That all the trees now upon the property be preserved except such of them as it is absolutely necessary to remove in connection with the laying out of such park. It is my earnest wish and request that if any of the trees upon the property are destroyed, or die, that such trees be replaced (Item XVII, Will of Violet Blair Janin).

When the playing facilities were installed, many of the old growth trees were removed. The western portion of the park and the area immediately adjacent to the Jesup Blair house have retained sufficient integrity of setting, association, and feeling. This remaining grove of old growth trees helps the park retain its historic character from the period 1934 to 1957. A clearly differentiated pattern of historical development, rural passive landscape versus a contemporary active public park, has emerged to delineate the setting's boundaries.

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. M:36-6

Land and Equity Records of Montgomery County, Maryland

See attached continuation sheet for additional references.

---

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 14.46 acres  
Acreage of historical setting 7.27 acres  
Quadrangle name Washington West                      Quadrangle scale: 1:24 000

---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property boundary is depicted on Montgomery County Tax Map JN32, Tax Parcel N310. The boundary for the Jesup Blair Park is shown as the dotted line on the map entitled "Maryland Register of Historic Properties Boundaries, Jesup Blair Park". The boundary includes the building and immediately adjacent grounds historically associated with the Jesup Blair house and excludes that part of the original site now occupied by playing fields and tennis courts. The boundaries retain sufficient integrity of setting, association, and feeling that are not present in the area adjacent to the playing fields.

---

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kirsten Peeler / Project Manager		
organization	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.	date	October 2001
street & number	241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100	telephone	301.694.0428
city or town	Frederick	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
   DHCD/DHCP  
   100 Community Place  
   Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
   410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M:36-6

Name Jesup Blair house

### Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

---

EDAW, Inc.

2000. *Jesup Blair Park Inventory Report. A Companion Document to the Approved Jesup Blair Park Facility Plan dated January 5, 2001.* Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning.

Gallager, Mary F., Eugenia Robinson and James D. Sorensen

2001. *A Preliminary Archaeological Reconnaissance of Montgomery College's Proposed Cultural Arts Center in Jesup Blair Park.* Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning.

~~Coalition to Preserve Jesup Blair Park~~

~~2001. Memo to Councilmember Isiah Leggett. Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning.~~

Government Printing Office

1891. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies.* Series I-Volume XXXVII-in two parts. Part I-Reports, Correspondence, etc. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.

Laas, Virginia

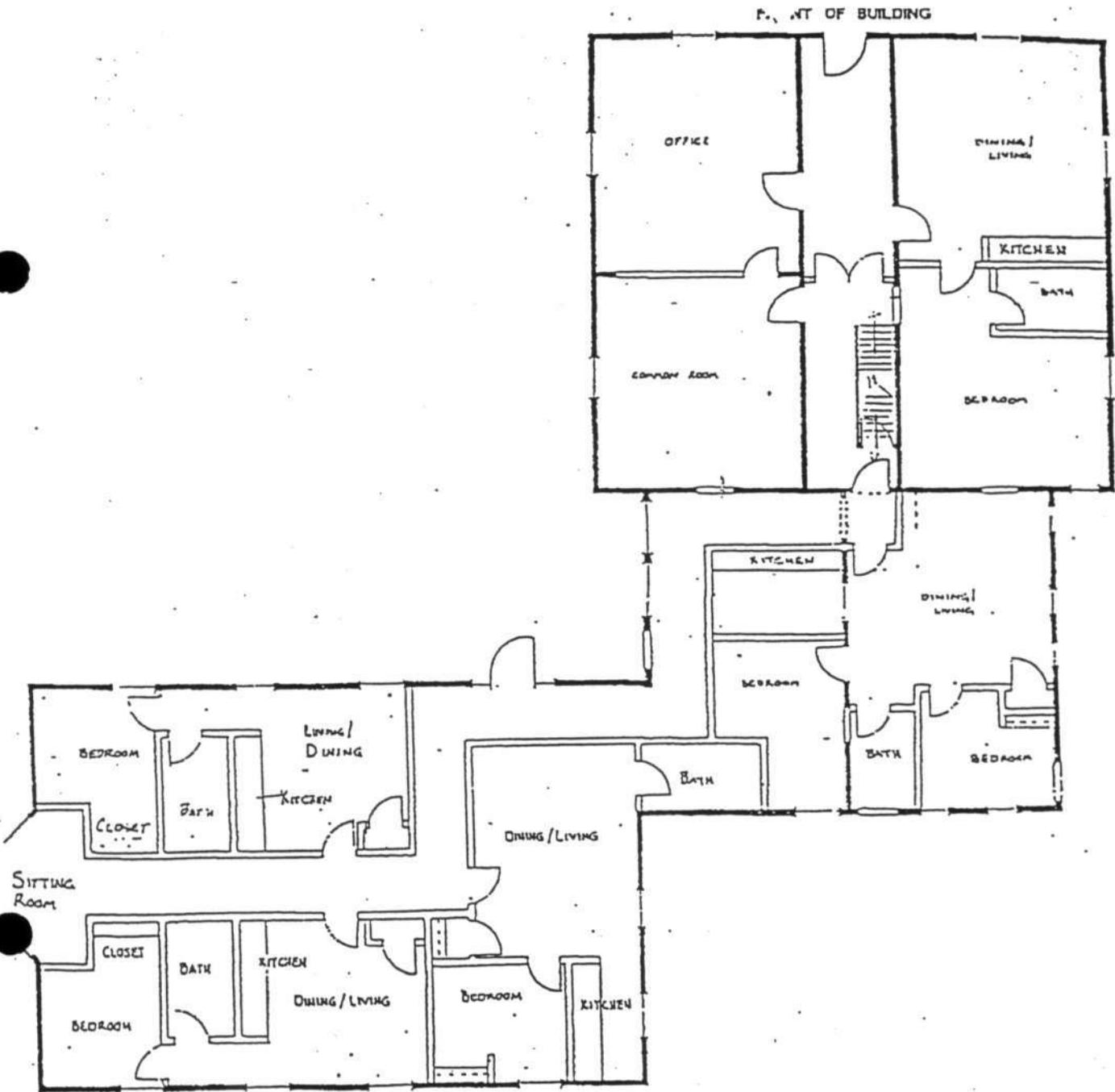
1991. *Wartime Washington. The Civil War Letters of Elizabeth Blair Lee.* University of Illinois Press, Urbana and Chicago.

Smith, Elbert

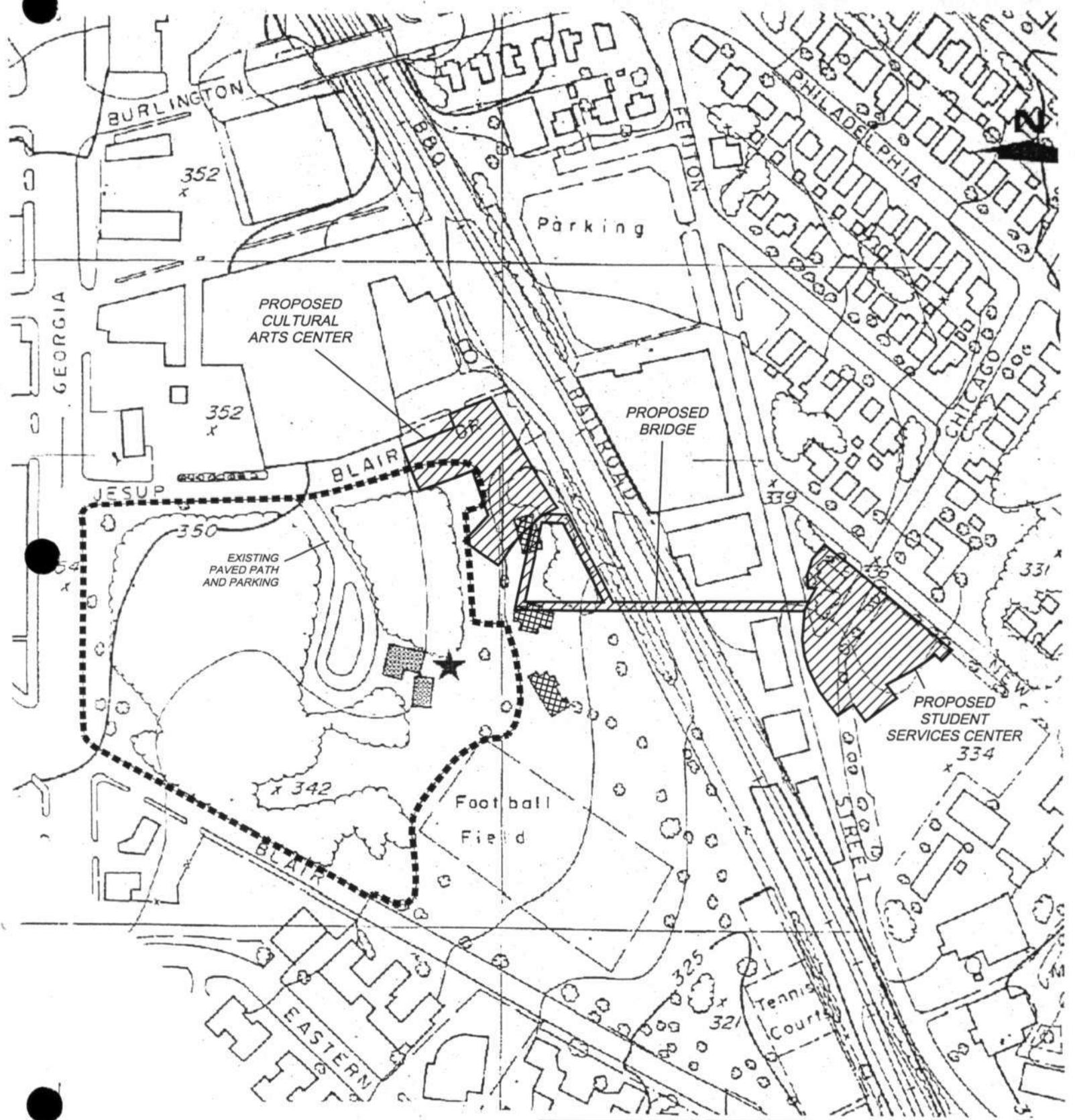
1980. *Francis Preston Blair.* The Free Press, New York.

Will of Violet Blair Janin

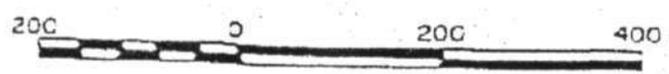
M:36-6  
Jesup Blair House and Park  
Silver Spring, Montgomery County, Maryland  
First Floor Plan  
(Not to Scale)



M:36-6  
 Jesup Blair House and Park  
 Silver Spring, Montgomery County, Maryland  
 MD Register of Historic Properties Proposed Boundary, Jesup Blair Park  
 Source: Undated map in Maryland - National Capital Park  
 and Planning Commission Staff Report, dated 1/05/00

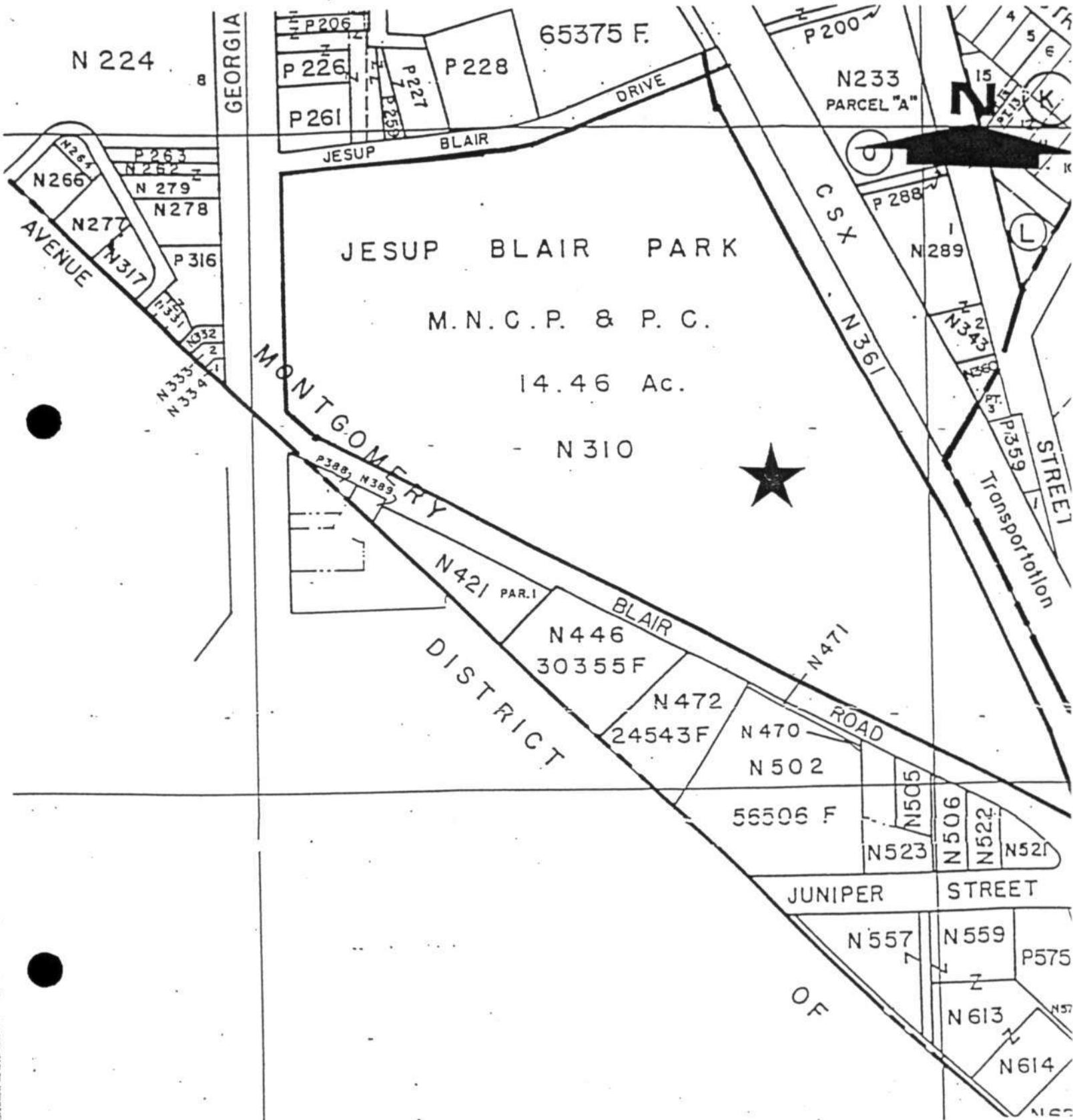


Scale: 1"=200'



KEY:	
★	Jesup Blair House
-----	MD Register of Historic Properties Proposed Boundary
▨	Proposed Structure
▩	Demolished Building, 1999

M:36-6  
Jesup Blair House and Park  
Silver Spring, Montgomery County, Maryland  
Parcel Map: Map JN32, Parcel N310







M36-6  
JESUP BLAIR HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD  
B. CLEVEN 10/01  
MD SHPO  
INTERIOR STAIRCASE  
#1 OF 7



M36-6  
JESUP BLAIR HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD  
B. CLEVELAND  
10/01  
MD SHPO  
WEST ELEVATION  
#2 OF 7



M30-6

JESUP BLAKE HOUSE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

B. CLEVELAND

10/01

MD SUPD

WEST ELEVATION

#3 OF 7



M36-6  
JESUP BEAR HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD  
BICKLEN  
10/01  
MD SHPO  
NORTH ELEVATION  
#4 OF 7



M36-6  
JESUP BRICK HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD  
B. CLEVELAND  
W/1  
MD SHPO  
EAST ELEVATION  
#5 of 7



M36-6  
JESUP BLAKE HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD  
B. CLEMENT  
10/01  
MD SETPO  
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION  
#6 OF 7



M36-6  
JESSUP BRANK HOUSE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD  
BELAH CLEMEN  
W/61  
MD 24400  
WEST ELEVATION - LOOKING EAST  
# 7 OF 7

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>					
COMMON: Jessup-Blair House					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
<b>2. LOCATION</b>					
STREET AND NUMBER: Georgia Avenue and Blair Rd. (D.C. line)					
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring					
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Montgomery		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____	
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>					
OWNER'S NAME: M-NCPPC					
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Ave.					
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring			STATE: Maryland		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Montgomery County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville			STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Uncltered
	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The house is a square, two-story frame farmhouse that incorporates elements of Federal and Greek Revival styling. The main (west) facade is of three bays, with the entrance in the center bay. A hip roof of moderate pitch is topped by a small cupola. Wooden quoin blocks are present on each corner of the building, and there is a large, external brick chimney on the south end. Second-story windows are six-over-six, double-hung, and are surrounded by wide molded frames. On the first floor there are double, eight-pane casement windows that rest on molded panels and project slightly from the face of the building. A very large, molded architrave, set atop pilasters, frames a door with transom and side-lights.</p> <p>The house shows an unusual degree of sophistication for this area. It is unlike any other area building. In fact, it is remarkably similar to a number of (remodeled) New England Colonial homes-particularly the Joshua Jacobs House in Hingham, Mass.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                      |   |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Blank area for Acreage Justification.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC	DATE: 6/2/75
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Ave.	
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:  
 National  State  Local

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



M:36-6

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated March 1986

ACTION TAKEN

- M: 36/5 Silver Spring/Acorn Urban Park & East West Highway
- M: 36/6 Jesup Blair House-Local Park
- M: 36/11 Old Silver Spring Post Office
- M: 36/14 Armory Place

Amendment to Master Plan  
Silver Spring CBD Individual Historic Sites

The purpose of this amendment is to designate these sites on the Master Plan.



M:36-6

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated July 5, 1985

ACTION TAKEN

Final Draft Amendment...to designate the following sites on the Master Plan thereby extending to them the protection of the Historic Preservation Ordinance:

- M: 36/5.....Silver Spring/Acorn Urban Park and East West Highway
- M: 36/6.....Jesup Blair House/Local Park
- M: 36/11.....Old Silver Spring Post Office
- M: 36/14.....Armory Place

APPENDIX

SITES NOT RECOMMENDED FOR REGULATION UNDER THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE CHAPTER 24A OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CODE

The following sites have been reviewed and found not suitable for regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Those sites also listed on The Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County, Maryland will no longer be subject to regulation under the Moratorium on Alteration and Demolition, Section 24A-10 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Although removed from the Locational Atlas, these sites will remain on the Maryland Historical Trust's State Inventory.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
36/16	Little Tavern	8230 Georgia Avenue
36/17	Old Masonic Temple	8435-39 Georgia Avenue

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND  
SITTING AS THE DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THAT PORTION  
OF THE MARYLAND-WASHINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT  
WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: District Council

Subject: Amendment to the Approved and Adopted Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County, Maryland re: Silver Spring CBD Individual Historic Sites

Background

1. On July 12, 1985, the Montgomery County Planning Board transmitted to the Montgomery County Council a Final Draft Amendment to the Historic Preservation Master Plan to designate the following as individual historic sites in the Silver Spring CBD:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Associated Acreage</u>
#36/5	The Silver Spring/Acorn Urban Park and East West Highway	Blair Mill Road	0.1 acre
#36/6	Jesup Blair House/Local Park	900 Jesup Blair Drive	14.46 acres
#36/11	Old Silver Spring Post Office	8412 Georgia Avenue	16,714 sq. ft.
#36/14	Armory Place	925 Wayne Avenue	1.6 acres

2. The Final Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation concerning Silver Spring CBD individual historic sites also recommends the following sites as not suitable for regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance and to be removed from the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County, Maryland:

while retaining the ability to be responsive to development plans which recognize important features of the resource.

IMPLEMENTATION

Once designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation, any substantial changes to the exterior of a resource or its environmental setting must be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission and a historic area work permit issued. The Ordinance also empowers the County's Department of Environmental Protection and the Historic Preservation Commission to prevent the demolition of historic buildings through neglect.

It is the intent of the Master Plan and Ordinance to provide a rational system for evaluating, protecting and enhancing Montgomery County's heritage for the benefit of present and future residents. The accompanying challenge is to weave protection of this heritage into the County's planning program so as to maximize community support for preservation and minimize infringement on private property rights.

AMENDMENT TO  
THE MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
SILVER SPRING CBD INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC SITES

The purpose of this amendment is to designate the following sites on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation thereby extending to them the protection of the Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Associated Acreage</u>
#36/5	The Silver Spring/ Acorn Urban Park & East West Highway	Blair Mill Road	0.1 acre
	-	Site of the original spring which is of symbolic importance to the community, being the site from which the town supposedly derives its name.	
	-	The Park's acorn gazebo, originally from the farm of Francis Preston Blair, founder of Silver Spring, is a good surviving example of the picturesque garden furniture popular on the estates of the wealthy during the 19th century.	
#36/6	Jesup Blair House- Local Park	900 Jesup Blair Dr.	14.46 acres
	-	Circa 1850 -- Unusually sophisticated two-story frame house incorporating elements of Federal and Greek Revival styling and featuring a hipped roof	

with cupola, wooden quoin blocks, a molded architrave and pilasters framing the front entrance.

- Originally known as "The Moorings," the house was constructed as a summer residence for the prestigious Blair family, influential settlers and developers of the Silver Spring area.

#36/11      Old Silver Spring      8412 Georgia Ave.      16,714 sq.ft.  
Post Office

- Constructed in 1936-37 this building is one of three distinctive federal post offices built in the County during the Depression under the aegis of the Work Progress Administration (WPA).
- This amendment recognizes that the zoning on the property permits an intensification of development for the site. If redeveloped, the intention of designation is to seek the preservation and integration of the labor intensive architectural features incorporated in the Georgia Avenue facade which are reflective of the role of the WPA in stimulating employment in the construction trades.

#36/14      Armory Place      925 Wayne Avenue      1.6 acres

- Representative example of early 20th century Armory architecture featuring distinctive medieval architectural affinities.
- Associated with Captain Frank Hewitt, Sr. and Colonel E. Brooke Lee, two of the founding fathers of modern Silver Spring.

1. The following sites are designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Associated Acreage</u>
#36/5	The Silver Spring/Acorn Urban Park and East West Highway	Blair Mill Road	0.1 acre
#36/6	Jesup Blair House/Local Park	900 Jesup Blair Drive	14.46 acres
#36/11	Old Silver Spring Post Office	8412 Georgia Avenue	16,714 sq. ft.
#36/14	Armory Place	925 Wayne Avenue	1.6 acres

2. The following sites are found as not suitable for regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance and removed from the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County, Maryland:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Little Tavern	8230 Georgia Avenue
Old Masonic Temple	8435-39 Georgia Avenue

This is a correct copy of Council action.

  
 Kathleen A. Freedman, Secretary  
 County Council

M:36-6



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
8787 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

RECEIVED

July 5, 1985

JUL 11 1985

TO: Richard Ferrara, Director  
 Department of Housing and Community Development  
 John L. Menke, Director  
 Department of Environmental Protection  
 ✓ J. Rodney Little, Director  
 State Historic Preservation Office  
 Priscilla Schwab, Chairperson  
 Historic Preservation Commission

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

FROM: Melissa C. Banach, Coordinator MCB  
 Community Planning North

SUBJECT: Final Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for  
 Historic Preservation: Silver Spring CBD Individual  
 Historic Sites

-----  
 I am pleased to transmit to you this Final Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

This document contains the recommendation of the Montgomery County Planning Board on the designation of several individual historic sites within the Silver Spring Central Business District.

Should you have any questions concerning this amendment, please do not hesitate to contact Marty Reinhart of Community Planning North staff at 495-4565.

MCB:MR:lyg  
 Attachment

FINAL DRAFT  
AMENDMENT TO THE MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SILVER SPRING CBD INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC SITES

JUNE 1985

A proposed Amendment to the 1979 Approved and Adopted Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County, Maryland and an amendment to the Approved and Adopted Sector Plan for the Silver Spring Central Business District and Vicinity 1979; being also an amendment to the General Plan for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District and to the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County, Maryland.

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3760

14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3090

## ABSTRACT

**TITLE:** Final Draft Amendment to the Approved and Adopted Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County, Maryland: Silver Spring CBD Individual Historic Sites

**AUTHOR:** The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

**SUBJECT:** Final Draft Amendment to the Approved and Adopted Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County Maryland: Silver Spring CBD Individual Historic Sites

**DATE:** June 1985

**PLANNING AGENCY:** The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

**SOURCE OF COPIES:** The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20907

**SERIES NUMBER:** 8048852506

**NUMBER OF PAGES:** 4

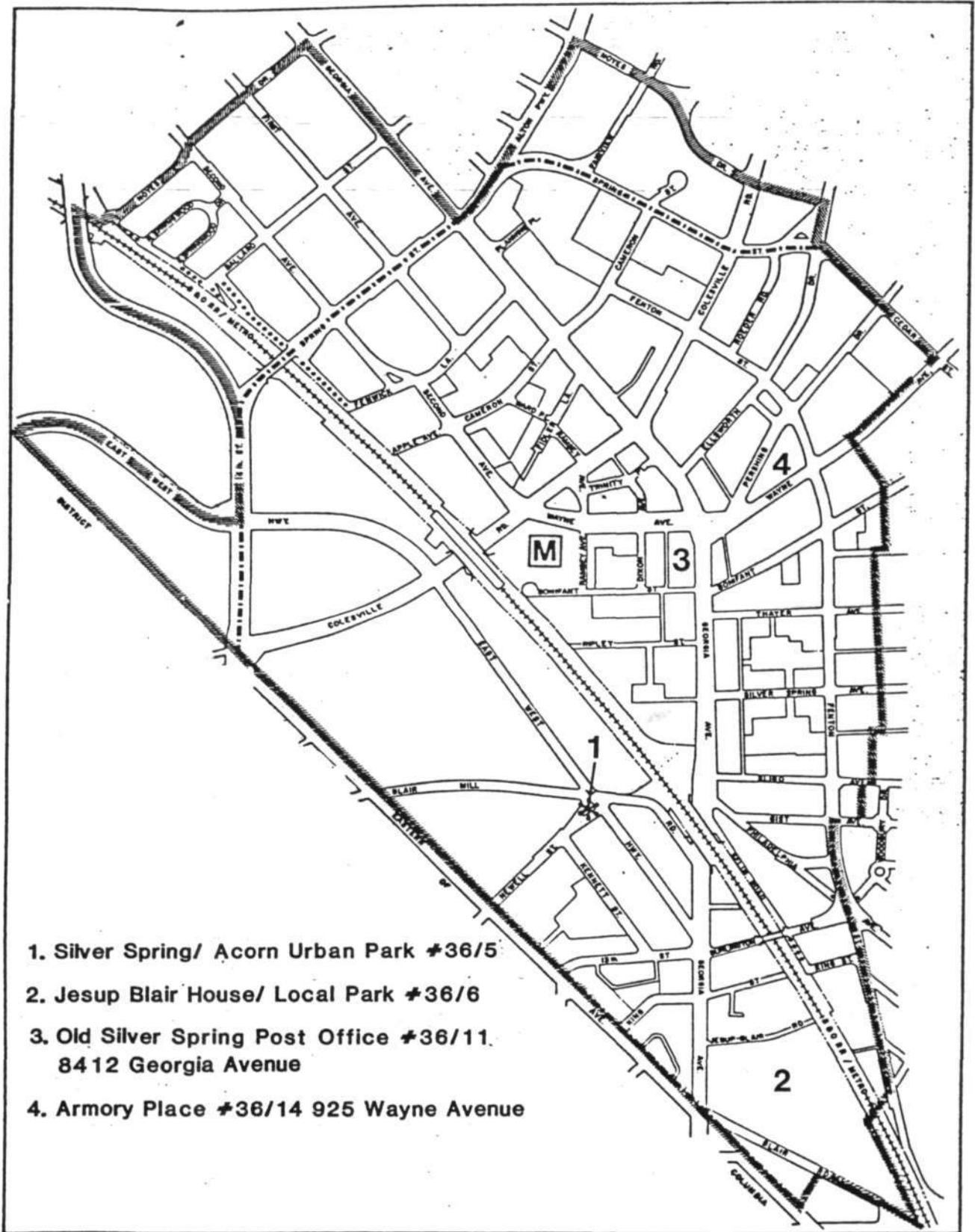
**ABSTRACT:** This publication contains the text, with supporting map, for an Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation in Montgomery County, which is an Amendment to the Sector Plan for the Silver Spring Central Business District and Vicinity, the General Plan for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District, and the Master Plan of Highways within Montgomery County, Maryland. This Amendment designates several properties within the CBD as individual Historic Sites to be protected under the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code.

It is the intent of the Master Plan and Ordinance to provide a rational system for evaluating, protecting and enhancing Montgomery County's heritage for the benefit of present and future residents. The accompanying challenge is to weave protection of this heritage into the County's planning program so as to maximize community support for preservation and minimize infringement on private property rights.

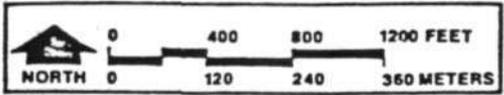
FINAL DRAFT AMENDMENT  
TO  
THE MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION:  
SILVER SPRING CBD INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC SITES

The purpose of this amendment is to designate the following sites on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation thereby extending to them the protection of the Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the Montgomery County Code:

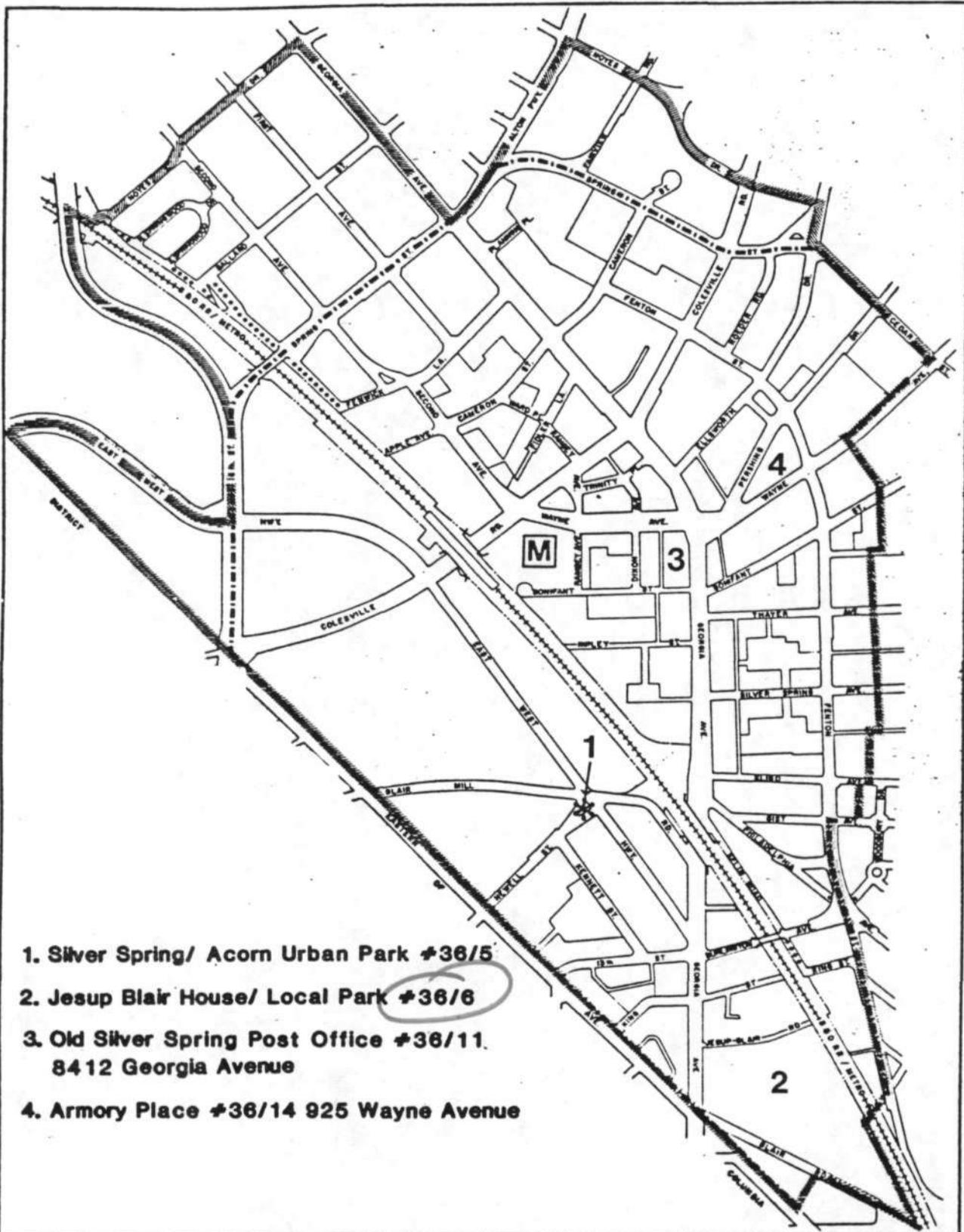
<u>Site</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Associated Acreage</u>
#36/5	The Silver Spring/Acorn Urban Park and East West Highway	Blair Mill Road	0.1 acre
-	Site of the original spring which is of symbolic importance to the community, being the site from which the town supposedly derives its name.		
-	The Park's acorn gazebo, originally from the farm of Francis Preston Blair, founder of Silver Spring, is a good surviving example of the picturesque garden furniture popular on the estates of the wealthy during the 19th century.		
#36/6	Jesup Blair House/Local Park	900 Jesup Blair Drive	14.46 acres
-	Circa 1850--Unusually sophisticated two story frame house incorporating elements of Federal and Greek Revival styling and featuring a hipped roof with cupola, wooden quoin blocks, a molded architrave and pilasters framing the front entrance.		
-	Originally known as "the Moorings" the house was constructed as a summer residence for the prestigious Blair family, influential settlers and developers of the Silver Spring area.		
#36/11	Old Silver Spring Post Office	8412 Georgia Avenue	16,714 sq.ft.
-	Constructed in 1936-37 this building is one of three distinctive federal post offices built in the County during the Depression under the aegis of the Work Progress Administration (WPA).		
-	This amendment recognizes that the zoning on the property permits an intensification of development for the site. If redeveloped, the intention of designation is to seek the preservation and integration of the labor intensive		



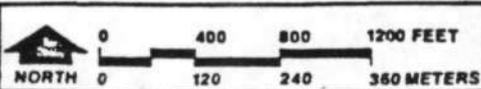
- 1. Silver Spring/ Acorn Urban Park #36/5
- 2. Jesup Blair House/ Local Park #36/6
- 3. Old Silver Spring Post Office #36/11.  
8412 Georgia Avenue
- 4. Armory Place #36/14 925 Wayne Avenue



Silver Spring CBD  
Individual Historic Sites



- 1. Silver Spring/ Acorn Urban Park #36/5
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**Silver Spring CBD  
Individual Historic Sites**

**1**

323

2'30"

WHEATON 3 1/2 MI

324

FOUR CORNERS 1/2 MI

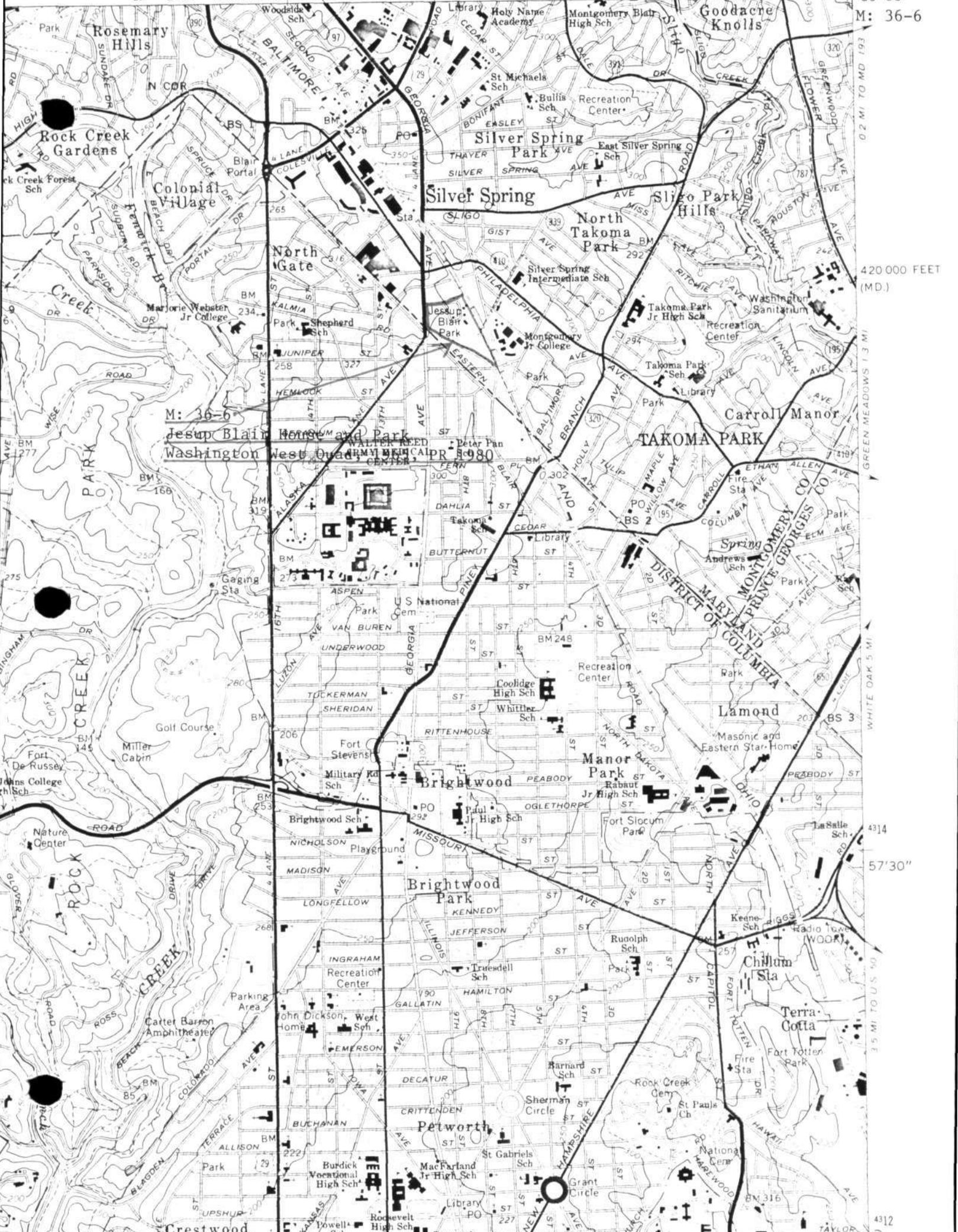
325

FOREST GLEN 2 1/2 MI

800 000 FEET (MD.)

39°00'

M: 36-6



M: 36-6

Jesup Blair House and Park  
Washington West Quad

420 000 FEET (MD.)

GREEN MEADOWS 1 1/2 MI

WHITE OAK 5 MI

4314

57'30"

3.5 MI TO U.S. 50

4312



21; #36-6

NAME JESUP-BLAIR HOUSE (M-NEPPE)

LOCATION QIA. AVE. + BLAIR RD. (DC. LINE) SILVER SPRING, MD.

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 6/2/75  
M. RUDYER

P



## SILVER SPRING

IMMEDIATELY WEST OF THIS SIGN WERE THE FRANCIS P. AND MONTGOMERY BLAIR HOMES. CONFEDERATE GENERAL JUBAL A. EARLY USED THESE HOUSES FOR HIS HEADQUARTERS DURING HIS OPERATIONS AGAINST WASHINGTON ON JULY 11, AND 12, 1864.

MARYLAND CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

S  
L  
25

ORGE

