

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For NCRS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Bingham-Brewer house

and/or common Brewer house; Casey house

2. Location

street & number 307 Great Falls Road ___ not for publication

city, town Rockville ___ vicinity of congressional district Eighth

state Maryland code 24 county Montgomery code 031

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Sidney G. and Kathryn W. Mollard

street & number 307 Great Falls Road

city, town Rockville ___ vicinity of state Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Rockville ___ vicinity of state Maryland 20850

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

M:26-9

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bingham Brewer house is located in Rockville, Montgomery County, at 307 Great Falls Road, approximately one quarter mile southwest of the intersection of Great Falls Road and Maryland Route 28 (Montgomery Avenue). The house sits on a slight ridge and faces south towards Dale Drive.

The original section of the house dates to 1821. It is a two story brick gable roofed structure which sits on a brick foundation. The Flemish bond front facade of the house is punctuated by three bays, with the entrance in the easternmost bay. The original six panel entrance door is capped by a three light transom, notable for its massive proportions. The entranceway is sheltered by a porch, supported by square columns on the front and pilasters on the rear, with a simple modillion cornice. Other fenestration is symmetrical. Windows are all original 6/6 double hung sash with blinds, and are enhanced by simple soldier course brick sills and splayed brick lintels. A dog toothed cornice marks the eave line. An interior brick chimney is found in the west gable end. Lastly, the roof, now covered with composite shingles was once a standing seam tin roof.

The east and west gable facades of the original building contain little fenestration or decoration. The east gable, like the west gable, is laid in 9/11 American or common bond. It has two elliptically arched basement windows with two rows of soldier bricks forming the lintels. One 6/6 single pane casement window has also been inserted in a central location in the wall at first floor level. The west gable facade is blank, marked only by a bulkhead entrance to the cellar at the northwest corner of the building.

A two story, shallow gable roofed frame addition has been added to the north, or rear of the structure. This addition, dating after 1860 (dating based on mouldings and existing hardware) probably replaced a shed-roofed, one story original wing (The exposed brick interior wall in the second floor den and the first floor dining room have wooden nailing strips that indicate that some type of shed addition was extant). The entire addition, as well as a later enclosed porch which projects at the northwest corner, was originally sheathed in German siding, but is now sheathed in aluminum siding.

The east facade of the addition is three bays wide. A modern square chimney stack is situated between the first and second bays, from the southeast corner. All windows are 6/6 double hung sash.

The rear (north) facade of the addition is composed of the three bays of the addition, and the fourth projecting bay of the enclosed porch.¹ Fenestration is not aligned and consists of various sized 6/6 double hung sash windows, a single pane window in the first bay of the second floor, northeast corner, and a modern 15 light door, centrally located in this facade. A modern brick patio has also been added.

See Continuation Sheet #1.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The west facade of the addition is built in two bays. In the enclosed porch section, the wooden steps lead to a 20th century wooden door, consisting of 4 panes of glass and three horizontal panels below. Above this is found a late Victorian 2/2 double hung sash window. In the second bay, identical 6/6 windows to the others previously described can be found.

A full basement is found only under the brick section of the building. It contains an earthen floor covered with bricks. The distance from floor to ceiling joists is approximately six feet. Replacement stairs on the east gable facade offer access from the interior of the house; from the exterior one gains access through a stepped bulkhead. Brickwork in the back of the present days furnace, centrally located on the west facade, indicates that a large arched fireplace was operating during the 19th century. A hole has been broken through the north wall to allow access to the crawl space under the addition.

The first floor plan of the original house consists simply of one room, now used as the living room. A dog leg stair with closed stringer simple newel post and balusters is situated in the northeast corner. A six panel door with later post 1860 cast iron lock with porcelain pull leads under the stair to the basement. All other trim including baseboards, a second door to the left of the stair on the north wall, and the front door is original. Most important is a simple Federal mantel centrally placed on the west wall, flanked by modern pine book-cases. In the modern chimney face has been inset a dated and inscribed brick, which reads "JAB 1821", probably for Julius Bingham. The original location of this brick is not known.

The stair rises to the second floor of the original house, and leads at the landing to a one step entrance to the addition, as well as through separate two original six panel doors with Victorian latches into what is now one large bedroom. A missing partition wall, the ghost of which runs north to the south in the random width pine flooring, originally created a smaller room at the east gable end of this room. At the west gable end is another simple Federal mantelpiece, with wide shelf and rebuilt hearth and face. A closet has been added in the northwest corner, and a later Victorian door added at this corner to allow access into the addition.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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The Bingham Brewer house
Montgomery County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

On the north wall of the original building, a wide, centrally placed entrance leads into the dining room. In the northwest corner, a six panel post 1860 door with box lock leads to a landing and tightwinder stair serving the hallway above. To the east, the floor drops one step into the music room. Other post 1860 Victorian trim exists in these rooms.

From a doorway to the right of the stiar, one walks northward into the kitchen. This room retains some original late 19th century vertical tongue and groove moulding, but for the most part has been modernized. A new fireplace has been added near the northwest corner, and shelves for cabinets and appliances have been added. Ceiling joists have been exposed.

A board and batten door on the west wall leads into the enclosed porch area, also sheathed in vertical tongue and groove paneling. This now is used for a laundry room. A door on the south wall also leads to the stairway to the second floor.

From the second floor landing in the original section of the house, one enters a long thin bedroom which stretches northward in the addition. James Hammond, a local Rockville carpenter, assisted in the complete renovation of this and other areas in the newer section of the second floor "back in the 1940s". Bedrooms had a different configuration before the renovation. Here simple window trim and baseboards are intact although a closet has been inserted in the southeastern corner of the room. A door in the north wall leads to a bathroom. There is one 3/2 window on the east wall and a 2/1 window complete with bulls-eye corner block moulding on the north wall. In renovating this area, various wall paintings were discovered on the plaster under the old paper. These were of burnt umber and similar to classical wall decorations of Ponpeii. The claw and ball porcelain bath tub is painted in a similar motif, although on polychrome. Male and female water nymphs are depicted. According to Charles Brewer, this painting was done by one of the Brewer children in the 1930s, while attending the Philadelphia Academy of Art.

Also on second floor level are steps down one step from the northeast section of the original house into the hall of the addition. The first section now functions as a 8'x 12' den, with random width pine flooring, and lit by one 3/2 window. Walking northward, one finds a door on the east wall to a bedroom. Floors here are also random

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

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Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE

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(DESCRIPTION, continued)

width pine. A large walk-in closet on the east wall and two 3/2 windows on the north wall. A flue between these windows, enhanced by a simple Gothic shelf, indicates that the room was once heated by a stove. A bathroom is located in the northwestern corner, and also contains a ball and claw bath tub with paintings similar to those in the other second floor bathroom. The stair from the floor below is located in the western wall.

Four outbuildings exist near the house. These include:

1. Smokehouse. Dating from the third or fourth quarter of the 19th century, this one story frame board and batten able roofed building is the oldest of all extant outbuildings. Six pane windows lights the north and south facades. It sits on a fieldstone foundation and has a shingled roof. It is now used for storage.
2. Privy. This appears to be contemporaneous to the above building. This is also one story tall, built on a fieldstone foundation, is clad in board and batten siding, and has a shingled gable roof. Access into its interior was not possible.
3. Chicken House. This one story building is almost identical to the smokehouse in size and construction. A board and batten door with late 19th early 20th century hinges is located in the south facade.
4. Two Car Garage. Constructed circa 1945-1950, this one story, gable roofed building is located approximately forty yards northeast of the house.

Locations for all these structures are found on the accompanying sketch map

¹According to Charles Brewer, this kitchen porch was enclosed in 1907.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1821 Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

The Bingham-Brewer House is an excellent example of an early 19th century Federal residence in Rockville, Montgomery County, Maryland. As Rockville today is a town of predominantly Victorian frame architecture, the house is one of only two visual reminders of the town's development during the Federal period. The house has also been owned by a series of owners with strong associations to Rockville history. These include Julius Bingham, editor of the second Rockville newspaper; William McClenahan, a major organizer of the Rockville Christian Church; Vigers family, who were local landholders; and the Brewer family, who were influential in Government, as well as legal, commercial and educational affairs.

HISTORY

In November of 1821, Charlotte Bingham purchased this house and 7½ acres for \$145 from Jesse Leach. About the same time, a mortgage was executed between Charlotte and Julius A. Bingham and Leach, in consideration of the \$145 and an additional \$50. Bingham also incurred a debt to John Adams in the sum of \$1,200, with Jesse Leach and Otho Willson standing security to him. Bingham must have been unable to repay the loans and the purchase price of the lot, because on January 25, 1822, a (conditional) Bill of Sale was recorded from Julius A. Bingham to Jesse Leach and Otho Willson; in this document Bingham agreed to sell his "printing press, racks and boxes or cases, types and all the apparatus thereto belonging to the said Julius A. Bingham's printing establishment in Rockville in said County and also all his household and kitchen furniture. . . for and in consideration of the securityship of Jesse Leach and Otho Willson for me in a replevin bond in the final sum of twelve hundred dollars current money in favour of John Adams and the sum of five dollars current money by them the said Jesse Leach and Otho Willson" Apparently the Bingham's were able to salvage their printing business and furniture by a \$382.40 loan from Silas and David Reed of Alexandria, for this mortgage was recorded the same day as the deed for the 7½ acres from Leach to Charlotte Bingham.

By 1824 Bingham was publishing the True American and Farmer Register, a four-page newspaper issued weekly at the subscription rate of \$2.50 per year in advance. In addition to local and regional news, the paper included advertisements such as a notice for return of lost slaves and a plea from a gentlemen for "a good housewife." Perhaps Bingham never did repay his debt to Leach, for in 1827, Leach acquired the True American.

By 1834, the house was owned by William and Elizabeth McClenahan.⁵ McClenahan came to Rockville in 1817 from Tubbermour, Ireland, and became

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CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

head of the English Department at the Rockville Academy.

Influenced by the teachings of Alexander Campbell, McClenahan became a minister in the church now know as "The Christian Church Disciples of Christ." McClenahan helped to organize the Rockville congregation in 1820 and held meetings at first in his own home on Falls Road and in the Rockville Academy.⁶ There are no records showing when McClenahan left the Rockville Christian Church and the Rockville Academy, but he sold the small brick house to Joanna C. Everett in 1840.

The property changed hands six times in the next 60 years. Between 1895 and 1906, John B. and Virginia Brewer rented the house, living there with their ten children. Brewer's father John was a prominent lawyer who had represented Montgomery County in the 1851 State Constitutional Convention. John B. Brewer held and managed extensive properties in the Rockville area. His son John purchased the house in 1906,⁸ but died soon after.

Members of the Brewer family occupied the property until 1958. They included Mary, who was a teacher at the Rockville Academy; her sister Virginia, who was a teacher in the Rockville Public School for a similar period of time; Russel, who founded a local bank and was active in the local Red Cross; and John, who became manager of the Washington branch of a prominent investment firm, Dun and Bradstreet.

In 1959 the property was conveyed to Thomas and Gretchen Casey,⁹ who extensively remodeled the house. Mr. and Mrs. Sidney G. Mollard acquired the house in 1976.

¹Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland, W49 (mortgage; made November 1821, recorded April 12, 1822)

²Ibid, V597

³Ibid, W53; W48 (deed); both recorded April 12, 1882.

⁴Wood, Esther, P., p.2.

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(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

⁵Land Records, Montgomery County, Maryland, BS2/273 (1829);
BS7/30 (1834).

⁶Carter, Mary Hurley, "The Story of the Rockville Christian
Church," unpublished manuscript, 1966.

⁷Land Records, Montgomery County, Maryland, BS10/423 (recorded
May 26, 1841).

⁸Ibid., 190/279

⁹Ibid., 2608/122

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #6.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .78 acre

Quadrangle name Rockville Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8
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3	1	3	0	8	0
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4	3	2	7	8	1	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE ENCLOSED MAPS: PLAT 835, City of Rockville and Tax Map GR 122, Parcel 505.

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 Sidney G. Mollard, Jr./ Candace Reed/ Mark R. Edwards, Historic Sites Survey Coordinator

organization Sugarloaf Regional Trails/ Maryland Historic Trust date 3/79--4/1980

street & number Box 87/21 State Circle telephone (301)926-4510/(301) 269-2438

city or town Dickerson/Annapolis state Maryland 20753/21401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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The Bingham Brewer house
Montgomery County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 6

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Interviews with: Thomas Casey, May, 1976. Charles Brewer, grandson of John Brewer, 307 Potomac Street, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.
- Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland.
- Wood, Esther P. "A Branch into the History of Rockville, Maryland, Through a Study of the Casey House," Unpublished manuscript, 1968.
- True American and Farmer Register, 1824 issue.
- Carter, Mary Harley. "The Story of the Rockville Christian Church." Unpublished manuscript, 1966.
- Thompson, Noma. Western Gateway to the National Capital (Rockville, Maryland). Washington, D. C. Stewart Printing Co., 1949.

1. Name: Brewer House

MAGI #1650152304

(#assigned-11/86)

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 26/9

3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 15

Coor F-13

4. Address: 307 Great Falls Road
Rockville, Md.

5. Classification Summary

Category building
Ownership private
Public Acquisition N/A
Status occupied
Accessible no
Present use private residence

Previous Survey Recording MNCPPC
Title and Date: Inventory of Historical Sites; 1976

Federal State x County x Local

6. Date: 1821

7. Original Owner: Julius Bingham

8. Apparent Condition

a. good b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This brick and frame 2½ story house is set back from Great Falls Road and faces south. The brick, front section is built on brick foundations and is set in flemish bond which has been painted white. It is 3 bays across and one bay deep. The small porch is in front of the door, and has a flat roof supported by 2 square wooden posts. The six-over-six double-hung windows are set into flat arches. A gable roof with asbestos covering caps this section. There is an interior end chimney and sawtooth cornice line.

North of the brick section is an irregular-shaped frame addition; it is covered with white aluminum siding, and is 3 bays across and 2 bays deep. Windows are six-over-six double hung; gable roof is covered with asbestos; there is an interior stove chimney.

The house is located on a lovely lot with trees and is hidden from the street by a slight rise which is covered by bushes. Outbuildings include a board-and-batten smokehouse, frame chicken house, frame garage and privy.

10. Significance: This house is significant for its architecture and for its personal associations. It has had a history of owners who have exercised leadership in the Rockville area -- Julius Bingham, (editor of the second Rockville newspaper), Wm. McClenahan (organizer of Rockville Christian Church), the Veirs family (local landholders), and the Brewer family (influential in government, legal, commercial, and educational affairs). This is one of two early brick structures still intact in a town of predominantly frame Victorian architecture.

Julius and Charlotte Bingham built the house in 1821, and left a brick inscribed "JAB 1821". For several years Bingham published the True American and Farmer Register, a 4-page weekly paper. William and Elizabeth McClenahan owned the house from 1834 to 1840, during which time he organized the Christian Church and taught at the Rockville Academy. Members of the Brewer family lived in the house from 1895 to 1958, providing lawyers, teachers and bankers to the community. The present owners have lived there since 1976.

Candy Reed/Architectural Description

11. Researcher and date researched: Sidney Mollard, Jr. - 2/79

12. Compiler: Eileen McGuckian

13. Date Compiled: 2/79

14. Designation Approval

15. Acreage: 7/8 acre

Brewer House



Front View (South)



NAME

CASEY HOUSE M-26-9

(BINGHAM-BREWER HOUSE)

LOCATION

FALLS RD, ROCKVILLE, MD.

FACADE

E

PHOTO TAKEN

5/14/75

M. DWYER