

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #73-21 Building Date: 1890's

Building Name: Eugene Roberts House, Fairfield

Location: 9400 Landover Road, Cheverly, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description:

The Eugene Roberts House (Fairfield), now St. Joseph's Rectory, is a two-and-one-half-story gable-roof frame building. It stands northeast of Maryland Route 202, 1/4 mile from the Capital Beltway, on the grounds of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, and is accessible by the driveway to the church. The house consists of a large square side-gabled main block with a rear kitchen wing at right angles, forming an ell. It is sheathed with German siding painted white, has 2/2 windows and green louvered shutters, and has a one-story projecting bay in each of the east and west gable ends. The house is a good, and fairly unusual, example of a plain late Victorian frame dwelling, a transition from the simple I-house to the emerging "Classic Box" style.

Significance:

The house was built in the early 1890's by Eugene Roberts, youngest of the five sons of Joseph Kent Roberts of Rose Mount. When the elder Roberts died in 1883, he devised to his sons parts of the farmland adjoining Rose Mount; Eugene received 170 acres of the tract "Brookes Grove" located southwest of Rose Mount, fronting on the old road from Upper Marlboro to Bladensburg. In 1887 Eugene Roberts married Annette Bowie, daughter of Governor Oden Bowie. In the early 1890's he constructed the subject house, a large and fairly plain farmhouse which avoided the exuberant detail of the then-popular Queen Anne style. It was an expanded version of the simple I-house plan, two parlors deep, with a functional third story, and a rear kitchen wing. Large and roughly square, it retained only the projecting bays of the Victorian style, and was highlighted by a full-facade porch with classical columns; it was in many ways a forerunner of the soon-to-be-popular "Classic Box" dwelling house plan. The Roberts called their new home Fairfield. In 1963, the property was sold to the Roman Catholic Church, for the establishment of St. Joseph's Church; the dwelling house is now used as the Rectory. It is a noticeable landmark in a rapidly developing area.

Acreage: 10 acres

Fairfield, the Eugene Roberts House, (St. Joseph's Rectory) (PG#73-21) was demolished in October 1986.

sgp

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DEMOLISHED - OCTOBER 1986

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Eugene Roberts House, Fairfield

and/or common St. Joseph's Rectory

2. Location

street & number 9400 Landover Road (On St. Joseph's Drive) not for publication

city, town Cheverly Landover vicinity of congressional district 5

state MD county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Archbishop, Washington Diocese

street & number c/o St. Joseph's Chapel, 9400 Landover Rd. telephone no.: 773-4838

city, town Cheverly state and zip code MD 20785

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber #3368

street & number Main Street folio 125

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. 73-27

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Eugene Roberts House (Fairfield), now St. Joseph's Rectory, is a two-and-one-half-story gable-roof frame building. It consists of a large square side-gabled main block with a rear kitchen wing at right angles, forming an ell. The building stands northeast of Maryland Route 202, 1/4 mile from the Capital Beltway, on the grounds of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, and is accessible by the driveway to the church.

The house faces roughly east; entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay main east facade, through a door with three-pane transom. The door is sheltered by a modern one-story shed-roof entry porch with square posts, newly built to replace an earlier porch which sheltered all three bays. Above the central entrance at third level is a small central cross-gable; its cornices are returned, to enclose a small 2/2 window. A small (screen enclosed) one-story shed-roof porch shelters a rear entrance in the third bay of the west facade.

Siding of the building is German, painted white. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash with plain board surrounds and green louvered shutters. There are double windows high in the gable ends. The cornice is boxed with crown molding, and returned at the gable ends; below it is a plain board frieze. The gable roof is covered with green asphalt shingle. Two corbelled brick chimneys rise from the east plane of the roof, one on each side of the central entrance bay. There is a third chimney at the juncture of the kitchen wing and the main block. The building rests on a foundation of brick, which encloses a basement under the north half of the main block and the kitchen wing.

Each of the north and south gable ends is highlighted by a one-story semi-octagonal projecting bay. Each of these hip-roof projecting bays (first bay of the north gable end, and third bay of the south gable end) has three windows, and lights a front parlor. The interior plan consists of a central stairhall with double parlors on each side. The rear parlor on the north leads into the kitchen wing.

Extending to the west (rear) and flush with the north gable end is a two-story gable-roof kitchen wing. It is one bay wide; siding, roof, and fenestration are the same as the main block. Attached to the rear (west) gable end of the kitchen wing is a small one-story gable-roof entry vestibule which gives access to the basement.

8. Significance

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History

Specific dates 1890's **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Eugene Roberts House (Fairfield) is a good, and fairly unusual, example of a plain late Victorian frame dwelling, a transition from the simple I-house to the emerging "Classic Box" style. It stands a short distance northeast of Maryland Route 202, the old road between Upper Marlboro and Bladensburg. It is used today as the Rectory for St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church.

The house was built in the early 1890's by Eugene Roberts soon after his marriage. Eugene Roberts was the youngest of the five sons of Joseph Kent Roberts of Rose Mount; when the elder Roberts died in 1883, he devised to his sons parts of the farmland adjoining Rose Mount. Eugene received 170 acres of the tract "Brookes Grove" located southwest of Rose Mount, fronting on the old road from Upper Marlboro to Bladensburg. (Franklin Roberts received another part of Brookes Grove east of Eugene's portion, T. Owen Roberts received "Inglewood" farm across the old road from Eugene's portion, and William Roberts inherited Rose Mount; Joseph K. Roberts, Jr., who practiced law in Upper Marlboro inherited the family land in Calvert County.)¹

In 1887 Eugene Roberts married Annette Bowie, daughter of Governor Oden Bowie. In the early 1890's he constructed the subject house, a large and fairly plain farmhouse which avoided the exuberant detail of the then-popular Queen Anne style. It was an expanded version of the simple I-House plan, two parlors deep, with a functional third story, and a rear kitchen wing. Large and roughly square, it retained only the projecting bays of the Victorian style, and was highlighted by a full-facade porch with classical columns; it was in many ways a forerunner of the soon-to-be-popular "Classic Box" dwelling house plan. The Roberts called their new home "Fairfield."

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. AG:73-21

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After the deaths of Eugene and Annette Roberts, Fairfield passed by family agreement to their son, Joseph William Roberts, who maintained his home there until the late 1950's. In 1963, the property was sold to the Roman Catholic Church, for the establishment of St. Joseph's Church.² The dwelling house, with new screened porch on the rear and new plain entry porch at the principal entrance, is now used as the Rectory. It is a noticeable landmark in a rapidly developing area.

Notes

1 Prince George's County Will WAJ Jr. #1:361; Prince George's Tax Assessments, 1888-1900.

2 Prince George's County Deeds #529:462; #2398:598; #2835:13; and #3368:125, interview, August 1986, with members of Roberts family.

R-R

BELTWAY PROPERTIES,
ASSOCIATES
7368/125
78.36 A.
P. 25

ST. JOSEPH'S DRIVE

ST. JOSEPH'S
PARISH
'A'

6738

73-21

202

R-R

LANDOVER

RD.

111034

INGLEWOOD BUSINESS
COMMUNITY

3-A

108042

5

MC CORMICK DRIVE

119011

LOT 38

I-3

LOT 37

LOT 34

LOT 35

PEPPERCORN PL.

INGLEWOOD BUSINESS COMMUNITY

LOT 32

LOT 36

LOT 31

LOT 33

RD.



PG#73-21

Fairfield (Eugene Roberts House)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#73-21

Fairfield (Eugene Roberts *House*)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
South elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#73-21

Fairfield (Eugene Roberts House)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
Northwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#73-21

Fairfield (Eugene Roberts House)
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
East elevation
Neg: MD Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD