

TIMELINE



The Moorings was built in 1850 for Francis Preston Blair's son, James Blair (1819-53), and his wife



Civil War encampments and Underground Railroad events occur at The Moorings, 1850-60s



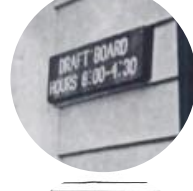
Violet Blair Janin inherits The Moorings in 1914, bequeaths it in 1933 to the State of Maryland



House serves as Silver Spring public library from 1934 to 1957; large wing is added in 1942



State of Maryland turns the property over to Montgomery County in 1939



House becomes Silver Spring Draft Board No. 53; 1969 raid



House is used as Chelsea School from 1978 to summer 1989

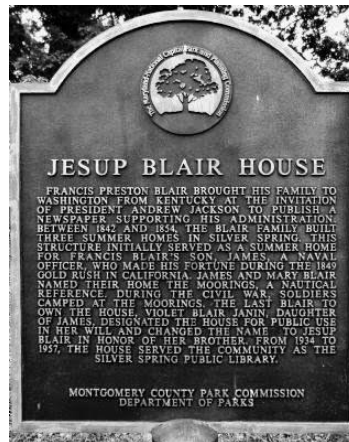


House is renovated in 1990 as transitional housing for single-parent families; closed for repairs in 2008

FROM THE JESUP BLAIR HOUSE NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM, 2002

"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 ..."



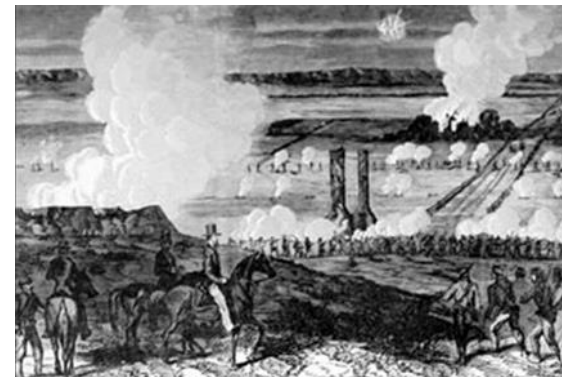
SAVE THE LAST CIVIL WAR LANDMARK IN SILVER SPRING OF THE BATTLE OF FORT STEVENS

Jesup Blair is the last building standing in Silver Spring that was an integral part of the Civil War Battle of Fort Stevens, where the attack on the Capital was turned back.

To let Jesup Blair stand empty for another decade, or worse, to let it deteriorate, would be unconscionable.

But imagine it restored and put to use as a community arts and education resource for the entire region, with history from basement (where Silver Spring archives would be housed) to main floors (where photographs and displays of Silver Spring's Civil War heritage would be featured on the walls, and educational programming would take place).

This historic mansion can take Silver Spring into our future, all while building for the community an appreciation of the history from which it arose.



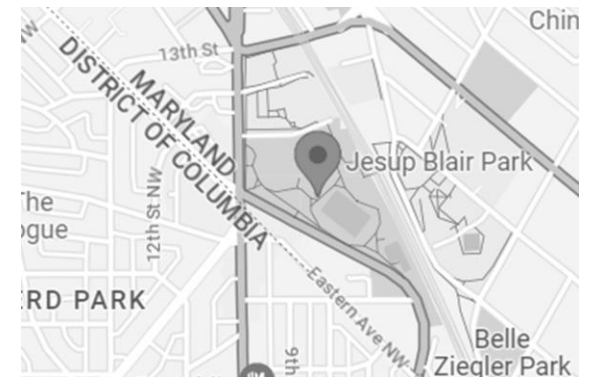
JESUP BLAIR HOUSE IN SILVER SPRING: HISTORIC TREASURE, FUTURE COMMUNITY HUB



"The Moorings" c.1870; now called Jesup Blair House



Remodeled Jesup Blair House, photo from the 1940s.



JesupBlairHouse.org



WHY JESUP BLAIR HOUSE MATTERS

Just over 150 years ago, late in the American Civil War, Silver Spring stood on the front lines of a desperate effort to turn back the 15,000 Confederate troops bent on capturing the Capitol. What happened here changed the course of history.

Jesup Blair House is the last standing remnant of those harrowing days, and is a reminder of the hope and determination of those people who lived here in Silver Spring and DC before us.

Join the effort to preserve this endangered Silver Spring landmark, and revitalize it into a community space for the next generation. Jesup Blair can live again both as a symbol of a proud community, and as a hub for arts and education.



Jesup Blair Park, carving by Joe Stebbing



Jesup Blair House was built by Francis Preston Blair, a newspaper publisher and influential advisor to President Andrew Jackson, around 1850. Originally called “the Moorings,” it was intended for his son James. Blair had already built a country house for his family in 1842 that he called “Silver Spring,” inspired by the small, mica-speckled spring nearby. Francis built a third house, “Falkland” for his oldest son, Montgomery, in 1854. These three houses, along with some farms and rural houses, were the foundations of this community.

Only Jesup Blair House remains. In 1933, James Blair’s daughter Violet donated the Moorings and the land surrounding it as a public park in memory of her younger brother Jesup. The house today sits on 14.5 acres of park along Georgia Avenue next to Montgomery College.



HISTORY WAS MADE HERE . . . REPEATEDLY

The story of Jesup Blair only begins with its construction by the Blair family. When you walk into the historic Jesup Blair House and Park, you are connecting to:

- The founding of Silver Spring by Francis P Blair, who advised twelve U.S. presidents from Andrew Jackson to Ulysses Grant.
- The first stop on “Underground Railroad: Maryland’s Network to Freedom,” where abolitionist William Chaplin was arrested in his carriage on August 8, 1850 with two men attempting to escape from slavery in Georgia.
- Montgomery Blair’s contributions to America as a member of Lincoln’s cabinet, serving as postmaster general during the Civil War. He was instrumental in keeping Maryland in the Union, and he represented Dred Scott in the infamous U.S. Supreme Court case. While living here and in DC, Montgomery established free delivery of mail in cities, founded the Universal Postal Union, and transformed postal operations to support the war effort.
- The first long-term home of the Silver Spring Library from 1934 to 1957.
- The Vietnam War. Jesup Blair House served as the Silver Spring Draft Board No. 53 and was raided by anti-war protesters in May 1969. From 1978-2008, Jesup Blair House was a school for students with learning differences, and then transitional housing for single mothers.



BRING JESUP BLAIR BACK TO LIFE

We envision the Jesup Blair House and grounds becoming a vibrant community hub for culturally diverse children’s programs, visual and performing arts, and local history.

Carpe Diem Arts, the Silver Spring Historical Society, and several other area nonprofits propose to share office space, and partner with other arts presenters and community groups in providing multicultural and intergenerational programs.

Imagine:

- Amazing outdoor festivals and concerts on the lawn.
- Daytime offerings for preschoolers, seniors, and everyone in between
- Evening coffeehouse performances.
- Weekend hands-on arts activities for adults and families.
- Speakers and exhibits on Silver Spring’s rich history, right up to the present day of pride in the contributions from our diverse and multicultural community.
- A home for the region’s hard-working nonprofit cultural and arts organizations.

Join Us! This is a local effort. We are working together to honor this landmark that connects us to history -- and to respect Violet’s 1902 gift to Montgomery County by making it once again hum with activity in celebration of our diverse community. Want to volunteer? Become a donor or programming partner?

Please visit JesupBlairHouse.org.

