

**Maryland Historical Trust
Determination of Eligibility Form**

Property Name: McNasby Oyster and Seafood Company Inventory Number: AA-2295
 Address: 723 Second Street Historic District: Yes No
 City: Annapolis Zip Code: 21403 County: Anne Arundel
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Annapolis
 Property Owner: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: _____
 Project: Maritime Museum Maintenance Preservation Project Agency: NPS
 Agency Prepared By: Maryland Historical Trust
 Preparer's Name: Jonathan Sager Date Prepared: 10/20/2014

Documentation Is Presented In: _____

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility Recommended Eligibility Not Recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: Yes No Listed: Yes No

Site Visit by MHT Staff: Yes No Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: (Please attach map and photo)

McNasby Oyster and Seafood Company was previously informally evaluated as part of preliminary discussions about whether or not the property would be nominated to the National Register. It was determined that the building has insufficient historic integrity to be eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility Recommended: Eligibility Not Recommended:
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Jonathan Sager
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

10/20/14
 Date

Bluntz
 Reviewer, National Register Program

10/21/14
 Date

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

Addendum

MIHP Number: AA-2295

Property Name: McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company
Property Address: 723 Second Street
Annapolis, MD

The following "draft" National Register form was prepared by EHT Traceries for the City of Annapolis. It is included here for the historical information it contains. The property has not been nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Because of significant alterations over time, the building has been assumed ineligible for compliance purposes (MHT log numbers 200401759, 200500140, 200603580, and others).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company
Other names/site number: (MHT # AA-2295)

2. Location

Street & Number: 723 Second Street Not for Publication
City or town: Annapolis Vicinity
State: Maryland Code: MD County: Anne Arundel Code: 003 Zip Code: 21403

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

Maryland Historical Trust

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____
 entered in the National Register.
 see continuation sheet
 determined eligible for the National Register
 see continuation sheet
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other, (explain:) _____

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McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company
Name of Property

Anne Arundel County, MD
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	1	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Local	<input type="checkbox"/> District		
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> Site		
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Object		
		1	0
Name of related multiple property listing <u>Historical and Cultural Resources of</u> <u>Eastport, Maryland, 1857-1949</u>		Number of contributing Resources previously listed in the National Register 0	

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Processing (Cannery)</u>	<u>COMMERCIAL/Restaurant</u>
	<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum</u>

See continuation sheet

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)
<u>OTHER/Rock-faced Concrete Building</u>
Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Foundation: <u>CONCRETE</u>
Walls: <u>CONCRETE; BRICK; METAL: Aluminum</u>
Roof: <u>ASPHALT SHINGLE</u>

Narrative Description

Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets
 See continuation sheet

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McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company
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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark x in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark x in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

MARITIME HISTORY

Period of Significance

1919-1985

Significant Dates

1919

1973

1985

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographic References

See continuation sheet
Previous documentation on file (NPS):
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
 previously listed in the NR
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State SHPO office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify repository:
Annapolis Maritime Museum

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .21 acres
UTM References Annapolis USGS Map

1) /// //////// ////////
Zone Easting Northing
 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company is located at 723 Second Street in the community of Eastport in Annapolis, Maryland. This is Parcel 793 as denoted on Map 8Z, Grid 17 in District 6.
 See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The property denoted as the McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company at 723 Second Street is located at the southern terminus of Second Street, which runs along the western border of the site. The rectangular lot is bordered to the east by Parcel 794, which is owned by the City of Annapolis. The city-owned power plant is located to the immediate north of the property. The waterfront of Back Creek creates the southern border.
 See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Laura V. Trieschmann and Kimberly P. Williams, Architectural Historians
Organization EHT Traceries, Inc. Date July 21, 2002
Street & Number 1121 5th Street, NW Telephone (202) 393-1199
City or Town Washington State D.C. Zip code 20001

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Annapolis c/o Municipal Building
street & number 160 Duke of Gloucester Street telephone 410/263-7997
city or town Annapolis state Maryland zip code 21401

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of the Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company (AA-2292), Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company, the last of the oyster packing plants to survive in Annapolis until it closed in 1985, is located at 723 Second Street in Eastport, a community in the City of Annapolis. It fronts Back Creek at the southern terminus of Second Street. The property consists of a one-story masonry structure, built in 1919 and subsequently enlarged at its western elevation and north corner. The main block of the building is constructed of rock-faced concrete blocks with a sloping flat roof. The westernmost end of the building stands two stories in height and was constructed of wood frame originally with a sloping roof. Clad with vertical board siding, the western end of the building was used as office space, storage, and shipping. The one-story portion of the building, pierced along the side elevations by small four-light windows located just below the cornice line, was originally set on concrete piers standing directly in the creek. Since the 1950s, the building has been supported by a solid masonry foundation that encircled the entire structure. The two-story wood-frame structure was enlarged to the west by the construction of a wood-frame addition that currently gives this portion of the building its side gable roofline. The south elevation of the building has been clad with brick facing and fixed metal windows replaced the original four-light windows. The east elevation, facing piers set within Back Creek, was reconstructed with smooth-faced concrete blocks. The building is painted white and the roof is clad in asphalt shingles. Owned by the City of Annapolis, the building is leased to the Annapolis Maritime Museum. The museum uses spaces for exhibits and educational programs. The building also houses a seafood market and restaurant, a maritime use required by zoning.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Site

The cannery was originally constructed on concrete piers standing partially in Back Creek. This form allowed the oysters to be easily moved from the watermen's vessels via booms, with the lines and all the baskets of seafood hoisted directly into the building. The shoreline has since been filled and the building set on a solid masonry foundation.

Presently, the building fronts the southern terminus of Second Street, allowing diagonally placed on-street parking. A wooden deck and two piers extending into Back Creek

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Continuation Sheet

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surround the southern end of the building. The eastern elevation faces the shoreline of the creek, with a shallow beach and long pier. The northern elevation fronts an oyster-shell gravel drive used for parking. Access to the city-owned Maritime Museum is to the north. A "tavern" sign hangs outside the building on Second Street advertising the business.

Exterior

The primary elevation, facing eastward on Back Creek, was reconstructed in smooth-faced concrete blocks with a distinctive stepped parapet roof. A large black and white painted sign advertising the company, reading "McNasby Oyster Co. Famous Packers" is centered on the façade. A pair of industrial steel doors, cutting into the bottom half of the sign, are located slightly off-center on the elevation. A pair of 1/1 aluminum replacement windows is located to the north of the door. A wooden deck supported by wooden piers extends over Back Creek and provides space for several picnic tables. Two long wooden piers extend from this deck out into the creek to allow boat passengers easy access to the former packing plant. The piers historically serviced the oystermen who unloaded their daily catch to be washed, shucked and packed at McNasby's.

The north elevation, the most intact façade of the cannery, presents its original rock-faced concrete block construction. The northeastern end of the elevation has been reconstructed in smooth-faced concrete blocks. The elevation is pierced just below the cornice line by eighteen small four-light window openings. A metal vent has been installed at the center of the elevation. A single-leaf entry, holding a metal door and flanked by larger four-light windows, is located at the western end of the elevation. The north elevation includes several metal roof ventilators and an exterior brick chimney. To the north of the chimney is a one-story concrete block addition with a shed roof. A single-leaf metal door pierces the north elevation of this addition, which dates to the latter part of the 20th century. The upper story of the wood-frame portion of the building, which was enlarged by the construction of an addition that currently gives this portion of the building its side gable roofline, is visible over the one-story rock-faced concrete block structure. This portion of the building is pierced by single fixed window opening and a air conditioning unit. This portion of the building is clad in aluminum siding.

The western end of the building, facing an oyster-shell gravel parking lot, is composed of

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the two-story addition to the wood-frame structure and the one-story masonry addition with a shed roof. A single-leaf entry metal door pierces the masonry addition, which marks the north corner of the building. The gable end of the addition is clad in aluminum siding. The two-story addition dominates the western end of the building. Constructed of wood frame in the middle part of the 20th century, this addition is now faced in brick. It is devoid of openings on the west elevation and marked by a painted sign that reads "McNasby's Seafood and Oyster Company, est. 1886."

The southern elevation of the cannery is composed of the one-story rock-faced concrete structure, the two-story wood-frame structure, and the two-story addition. This elevation has been substantially altered, thereby obscuring the rock-faced concrete construction material and the wood-frame structure. The western end of the building, now clad in brick facing, includes the two-story structure with its sloping roof and the two-story addition that gives this portion of the building a side gable roofline. The first story, at both the western and eastern ends, is pierced by single-leaf entries with flush replacement doors. A horizontal-placed window opening is located to the east of a one entry. This opening has four-light casement windows and a rowlock brick sill. An elongated entry opening covered with plywood marks the second story, directly over the eastern entry. A single double-hung window is located closer to the gable end of the elevation. The eastern elevation of the original wood-frame structure is pierced by a single 1/1 replacement window and a fixed opening to hold an air conditioner.

The one-story rock-faced structure, now clad with brick facing on the southern elevation, reflects the commercial use of the building in the latter part of the 20th century. This elevation has a three-light fixed metal window, a single-leaf metal and glass door, and paired double-hung windows. A single-leaf metal door is located adjacent to a wood-frame alteration that stands one-and-half stories in height. This addition, clad in aluminum siding, houses a double-height, roll-up garage door of metal. It has a front gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The brick-faced structure is devoid of openings to the east of the garage addition.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company (AA-2292), Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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Interior

The interior has been altered since the building's original construction in 1919. Presently, the interior is divided into three distinct spaces, reflecting the building's current occupants. The eastern end of the building, accessed by the garage addition on Second Street, is a single open space. Storage facilities are located in the northern corner of the room. Double-leaf metal entry doors are located on the west wall of the room, providing access to the central hall of the building. The walls of the hall are created by rock-faced concrete block and smooth-faced concrete block. The upper sections of the walls are smooth and appear to be plaster. The floor is composed of poured concrete. The hall is flanked by modern kitchen equipment, with the restaurant counter to the far south. The western end of the building, within the wood-frame structure and subsequent addition, provides museum space and storage to the south and restrooms to the north.

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McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company (AA-2292), Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company Building at 723 Second Street in Annapolis, Maryland, was home to the largest oyster shucking, packing, and shipping company in Eastport in the early part of the 20th century. An agricultural community with acres of farmland and pastures in the 18th century, Eastport evolved into a maritime center with the establishment of the first oyster business in 1857. By the early 20th century, eighteen shucking houses lined the banks, rivers and creeks in Annapolis. The McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company was the last and longest operating oyster packing plant to be established in Eastport. The company, which was owned and operated by William Joseph McNasby, Jr. ("Mac"), first came to Annapolis about 1906 and moved to Eastport in 1919. Although no longer in operation by 1985, the McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company Building is the only oyster-related structure presently extant in Eastport. The McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company has made a significant contribution to the maritime history of Eastport, and continues to serve as a landmark to the oyster shucking and packing industry. The property is significant under Criterion A, with a period of significance extending from 1919 to 1985 (when the property ceased to operate as an oyster packing plant), and is supported by the historic context presented in the Multiple Property Documentation form entitled "Historical and Cultural Resources of Eastport, Maryland 1857-1949."

RESOURCE HISTORY

The property on which the McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company Building at 723 Second Street stands was historically part of an 809-acre tract of agricultural land owned in the late 18th century by Maryland Governor Benjamin Ogle and his wife, Henrietta Margaret Ogle, who had inherited the property from her father.¹ The Federal Direct Tax of 1798 records that Ogle's Horne Point property, which was known as *The President* by 1803, was largely agricultural and pasture lands, improved by "one old frame dwelling and one blacksmith's shop." Following the death of Henrietta Margaret Ogle in 1815, the property was sold to satisfy her \$29,999 debt to her mother-in-law, Anne Tasker Ogle. John T. Barber, a prominent local farmer born in 1804, purchased 645 acres of the Horne

¹ Jane W. McWilliams, "Eastport Notes," unpublished paper prepared for Historic Annapolis Foundation, 1983.

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Point property. Because of a dispute with his family, Barber was forced to relinquish ownership of the land in March 1861. Two years after the death of Barber in 1864, William F. Pentz of Baltimore City purchased 305-3/4 acres of the land on Horne Point from trustees Nicholas Brewer of John and Frank H. Stockett for \$16,510. A real estate entrepreneur, Pentz subdivided the property, conveying each section separately. In April 1867, two hundred acres to the southwest of present-day Sixth Street were conveyed to General Henry H. Lockwood. Four acres were sold in September 1867 to Sarah E. Pearce. Pentz conveyed the remaining 101-1/4 acres to the Mutual Building Association of Annapolis on July 17, 1868. Incorporated under an Act of the Assembly, the Mutual Building Association of Annapolis was formed by a group of fourteen Anne Arundel County businessmen who sought to encourage residential construction and ownership of land. The names of the applicants were Washington D. Basil, Daniel M. Sprogle, James Revell, James H. Brown, Thomas Basil, John W. Brady, Gordon W. Green, J. Guest King, John Ireland, John M. Blades, William Brewer Gardiner, Charles A. Sullivan, Thomas A. Makibbin (or Maccubbin) and Thomas Hubbard, all residents of Anne Arundel County. The association was specifically formed, as listed in the Articles of Incorporation, with the intention to purchase, subdivision and sell land for building purposes. In addition, the corporation sought "to advance or lend money for the purchase of land or houses..."² The building association was the first of its kind in Anne Arundel County and proved to be a model for other speculative development companies such as the Workingmen's Building Association in the latter part of the 19th century.

The 101-1/4-acre tract of land purchased by the Mutual Building Association of Annapolis extended from the southeastern edge of Horne Point (then still a farm operated by Richard Swann) to present-day Sixth Street on the south and from Spa Creek on the west to Back Creek on the east. A plat, surveyed by John Duvall in September 1868, divided this acreage into a grid of 256 lots. Chesapeake, Severn, Chester and Eastern avenues formed the northeast-southwest streets, as they do today. The streets running northwest-southeast were originally numbered First through Seventh streets from the interior of the peninsula to Horne Point. This was later reversed so that numbers now run sequentially from Horn Point southwest. Seventh Street was renamed Riverview Avenue.

Knowing that access to its new community was fundamental to its success, the Building

² Records of Incorporation, 1868-1882 (Anne Arundel County Charter Record, MSA T 2787).

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McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company (~~AA-2292~~), Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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Association oversaw the construction of the first bridge connecting Eastport to Annapolis. This fixed-span wooden bridge—the first of several to span Spa Creek—connected Compromise Street in downtown Annapolis to present-day Fourth Street in Eastport. Further, to encourage settlement of its residential development, the Mutual Building Association of Annapolis offered potential purchasers the ability to buy a lot and build a house while paying for either or both in small weekly or monthly installments.³

A number of residents of Annapolis expecting to benefit from real estate speculation purchased groups of the unimproved lots in Eastport directly from the Mutual Building Association. Gottlieb and Dorothy Feldmeyer were two such local residents, purchasing Lots 176, 177, 181, 182, and part of Lots 177 and 180 in 1885. Born in Germany in 1822, Gottlieb Feldmeyer was a blacksmith, carriage maker, and served four terms as city councilman in Annapolis. In October 1893, the Feldmeyers sold the Eastport property to Solomon and Maggie Snowden for \$450.

Residents of Baltimore City, the Snowdens used the Eastport property for rental purposes. The Southern Map Company recorded in 1905 that Lots 176 and 177 along Eastern Avenue were improved with a single-family dwelling and grocery store. Four years later, in 1909, the Snowdens conveyed a portion of Lot 182 to Mary E. McNasby for \$200. Originally from Philadelphia, McNasby was born in 1857 and married William Joseph McNasby in the 1870s. William McNasby, born in 1853, was a furniture dealer originally from Baltimore. The McNasbys moved to New Jersey, where they started the McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company in 1886. By 1906, the company had relocated to Annapolis, occupying a site on Compromise Street near the city dock along Spa Creek.

The packing and marketing of Chesapeake Bay seafood, particularly oysters and crabs, was the principal industry in Annapolis in the latter half of the 19th century. The G.M. Hopkins *Map of the City of Annapolis*, dated 1878, recorded approximately fourteen oyster houses along Spa Creek and the Severn River. The packing houses lined the Annapolis harbor, particularly along Compromise Street and at the end of Prince George and King George Streets in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A few oyster houses were found along Severn Street and Shipwright Street. The oyster houses were owned and operated by Dennis Claude, the Brown, Heaver and Company, J.B. Coolahan,

³ Eastport Neighborhood Study (College Park, MD: University of Maryland, 1996), p. 3.

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Medford, Russell and Company, George M. Taylor, Jonathan Frank, and Daniel Medford. These enterprises shipped thousands of bushels of oysters and crabs weekly, and provided numerous employment opportunities for residents and spurred the creation of related industries. Stated by Elihu S. Riley in *History of Annapolis, 1649-1887*, "the oyster packing establishments, of which there are about ten, bring considerable money into the city, which, with the home trade in oysters, redeems the mercantile business from annihilation."⁴ Yet, the production of seafood in Annapolis did not reach the status of other cities along the Chesapeake Bay, such as Crisfield, Cambridge, Norfolk, and Baltimore. Although, the industry did help to stabilize the economic base of Annapolis, it did not create great wealth nor spur rapid development.⁵

After the turn of the 20th century, the number of oyster houses along the harbor of Annapolis began to dwindle, being replaced by lumber yards, ice houses, freight houses, and ship building yards. Yet, the oyster and crab packing plants continued to exist along the city dock area well into the late 1920s. The *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps* for 1908, 1913, 1921, and 1930 document the existence of a number of packing plants, including Walter Clark Oyster Packing Company, C.W. Martin and Company, C.A. DuBois and Company, and Jason I. Johnson and Company.

In 1918, McNasby's employed thirty-two shuckers and paid them an average of twenty-eight dollars per week. As recounted in *Then Again...Annapolis, 1900-1965* by Mame Warren,

A lot of the shuckers lived right down in the dock area. Most of them lived along Fleet Street and Pinkney and parts of East Street. Also parts of Cornhill Street. That was your lower section, and down, of course, in the Randall Street area, you had blacks there. But they were mostly your water-oriented people, that lived down close, within walking distance of their occupation.⁶

⁴ Elihu S. Riley, "The Ancient City," *A History of Annapolis, in Maryland 1649-1887*, (Annapolis, MD: Record Printing Office, 1887), p. 319.

⁵ Marcia M. Miller and Orlando Ridout V, editors. *Architecture in Annapolis, Maryland: A Field Guide*. (Crownsville, Maryland: Maryland Historical Trust Press, 1998) p. 16.

⁶ Mame Warren, *Then Again...Annapolis, 1900-1965*, (Annapolis, MD: Time Exposures Limited,

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By 1919, the McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company relocated to Eastport, ten years after purchasing the waterfront property denoted as Lot 182. *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps* report that in the 1920s, when McNasby's moved to Eastport, the oyster packing company was one of two such seafood companies on the peninsula. B.A. Friemel's oyster packing company was located along Spa Creek at the northwestern terminus of Sixth Street (now First Street). The company was established circa 1870 and continued to operate in Eastport until 1933, when a flood destroyed the two-story wood-frame building. A small one-story oyster house, located at the end of Fifth Street (now Second Street) across from McNasby's, was recorded on the maps in 1921. This wood-frame structure was razed by 1930.

Historic images and *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps* document that oyster-related properties such as McNasby's typically lacked applied ornamentation and were utilitarian in design and form. The use of rock-faced concrete blocks, a building material popular between 1900 and 1930, was commonly used in the construction of commercial and oyster-related buildings in Eastport, Annapolis, and Anne Arundel County in the early part of the 20th century. Historic maps document that the main block of the building, constructed of rock-faced concrete blocks with a sloping flat roof, was originally one story in height. The westernmost end of the building stood two stories in height and was constructed of wood frame with a sloping roof. Clad with vertical board siding, the western end of the building was used as office space, storage, and shipping. The one-story portion of the building, pierced along the side elevations by small four-light windows located just below the cornice line, was constructed on concrete piers standing directly in the creek. The front entrance of the Eastport plant, which was located on Spa Creek, was specifically designed,

...so you could get the product from the watermen with the booms and the line and all the baskets to hoist the seafood up out of the vessels. And they were either dumped into a conveyor or wheel barrow or something and moved into the ears for them to be selected – the oysters could be selected for different purposes, some for shucking, some to be sold

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on the half-shell, and some to be shipped as is.⁷

The historic site marker at the property describes the harvesting process,

Oysters were harvested from the Chesapeake Bay during the "R" months of the year, from September until April. Oyster boats pulled up to the adjacent dock and laborers were hired to unload the precious cargo. Men were paid as much as 25 cents for each wheelbarrow of oysters they unloaded, to the "shucking shed" inside the main building. Later, conveyors were used to speed up the process. Men and women worked in lines of wooden stalls where the oysters were brought to them for shucking. The shucked oysters were placed into steel pots. When filled, these pots were carried into the back room of the plant and the oysters dumped into large steel tubs where they were washed. They were packed into... tin cans.... The tins were temporarily stored in the "cold room"....⁸

The working conditions and employees of the Eastport plant are described through oral histories recorded in *Then Again...Annapolis, 1900-1965*,

You didn't have to have white gloves on and a mask and stuff like that. It was just individuals handling the product as it came through their stations. The shuckers were mostly blacks. And there were whites, of course, too. It wasn't any question of segregation or anything. But it seemed like the blacks were the better workers, I guess, or at least they would work maybe for less. I don't know. It seemed to be that you saw more blacks than you did the whites at these places.⁹

⁷ Warren, p. 113.

⁸ Eastport Historical Committee Walking Tour, Sign # 9.

⁹ Warren, p. 113.

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With the death of Mary E. McNasby in 1928, the Eastport property and the oyster packing company were bequeathed equally to Justice John and Robert Emmett McNasby. Sons of Mary McNasby's, Justice and Robert McNasby continued to operate the family business. In 1935, Robert McNasby and his wife, Cecelia, conveyed their one-half interest in the property and company to younger brother, William Joseph McNasby, Jr. Known as "Mac," William McNasby was born in July 1886 and worked in the family business as an oyster packer. On August 29, 1946, Mac McNasby and his wife, Pearl, conveyed their one-half interest in the Eastport property to younger brother, Justice McNasby. That same day, Justice McNasby turned full title of the property and the oyster company over to Mac and Pearl McNasby. The city directory for 1954 noted that Pearl and Mac McNasby lived in Akron, Ohio.

A walking tour and historic site marker at the property characterize Mac McNasby as a prominent citizen and thoughtful employer who was "well known for the care he displayed for the workers in his employ. Many of them were of African-American heritage and lived in Eastport as well as surrounding areas. Some traveled from the Eastern Shore of Maryland during the oystering season and lived in small houses nearby. The Barge House Museum building (133 Bay Shore Avenue) at one time housed workers from McNasby's."¹⁰

Famous for dealing only in cash, McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company shucked, packed, and shipped Chesapeake Bay oysters all over the East Coast. The company used small light blue tin can labeled "Pearly Oysters" – so named after McNasby's wife, Pearl. The cans were labeled: *Famous Pearl Brand Chesapeake Bay Oyster*. The image of a pearl necklace was draped about the front of the can, which was marked with white lettering (gray lettering was also used).

By 1954, the building was placed on a solid masonry foundation and no longer stood in the water. Two wooden piers had been erected at the eastern end of the masonry building over the water. Further, the two-story wood-frame structure was enlarged to the west by the construction of a wood frame addition that currently gives the building its side gable roof line. The south elevation of the building has been clad with brick facing and fixed

¹⁰ Eastport Historical Committee Walking Tour, Sign # 9.

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metal windows replaced the original four-light windows.

Mac McNasby died in April 1973, fourteen years after the death of Pearl McNasby. The couple had been childless, and the oyster company and Eastport property were bequeathed to Mac McNasby's long-time friend, John W. Turner and his wife, Mary Lou Turner. The Turners continued to operate McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company until 1985, at which time the oyster company was closed and the property sold. A local developer who had established the 723 Second Street Joint Venture as a holding company for the property purchased the .21-acre site and the building. Subsequently the holding company purchased the adjoining property at 133 Bay Shore Avenue where the Barge House Museum is currently located. Under the ownership of the joint venture, the former oyster plant was vacant.

In 1989, the City of Annapolis purchased the property and began to renovate in the building in phases. The final phase of renovations, which included seafood plant operations on the interior, was completed in 1991. The deed of conveyance included a clause for the property at 133 Bay Shore Avenue that was established by the City. Recorded as Exhibit B, the clause stipulated "the restricted property shall not be converted to any use other than public outdoor recreation and open space (which permitted use shall include, but not be limited to, a museum) without the prior written consent of the Secretary of Natural Resources, the Director of Planning and the Secretary of Budget and Fiscal Planning."¹¹ The property was zoned Waterfront Maritime Eastport (WME).

The City of Annapolis leased the property in November 1989 for ten years to the Maryland Watermen's Cooperative, which included fifty-four watermen from around Anne Arundel County who continued to operate the packing plant. The lease and variance placed on the property in 1991 specifically stated "the purpose was to reestablish seafood processing on the western shore of the bay and to support the City's maritime industry."¹² The cooperative was forced to file for bankruptcy and disbanded in 1994. The community, recognizing the maritime history of the property at 723 Second Street,

¹¹ Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber 4939, Folio 503 (September 28, 1989).

¹² Board of Appeals Variance, October 10, 1991. Archived at the City of Annapolis, Department of Planning and Zoning, Property Files.

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petitioned the city council to locate a new tenant who would continue to maintain the property's direct association with seafood. Ultimately, the former oyster plant was leased to Doug Orr and David Stricker. The historic site marker tells the partners "continue[d] the seafood tradition started by the McNasby family almost a century ago. The oyster processing that is part of their operation is back in business under the old name: McNasby Pearl Oysters."¹³

In 1995, the building was renovated for seafood wholesale and as a restaurant (Eastport Seafood Company), which was in keeping with the maritime-related zoning required by the City. The building is currently leased to the Annapolis Maritime Museum, which has subleased a small portion of the former oyster plant to John Brock. The restaurant, known as Maritime Café at McNasby's, opened in June 2002. Remaining portions of the building are to be used as museum space.

Chain of Title

Estate of Margaret Henrietta Ogle to John T. Barber

April 27, 1866: Nicholas Brewer of John and Frank H. Stockett, trustees, to William F. Pentz of Baltimore City
Equity: Catherine and Charles Barber versus John T. Barber (March 1, 1861)
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber GEG 2 Folio 278

July 17, 1868: William F. Pentz of Baltimore City to the Mutual Building Association of Annapolis
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber SH 2 Folio 419

¹³ Eastport Historical Committee Walking Tour, Sign # 9.

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- December 31, 1885: Mutual Building Association of Annapolis to Gottlieb and Dorothy Feldmeyer
Lots 176, 177, 181, 182, and part of Lots 177 and 180
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber SH 27 Folio 354/356
- October 13, 1893: Gottlieb and Dorothy Feldmeyer to Solomon and Maggie Snowden
Lots 176, 177, 181, 182, and part of Lots 177 and 180
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber SH 45 Folio 15
- May 15, 1909: Solomon and Maggie Snowden to Mary E. McNasby
Part of Lot 182
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber GW 67 Folio 295
- February 1, 1928: Mary E. McNasby bequeathed to Justice McNasby and Robert Emmett McNasby
Will Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber OBD 4 Folio 262
- August 7, 1935: Robert Emmett McNasby and Cecelia McNasby to William Joseph McNasby
One-half interest
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber FAM 140 Folio 355
- August 29, 1946: William Joseph and Pearl M. McNasby to Justice McNasby
One-half interest
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber JHH 371 Folio 215
- August 29, 1946: Justice McNasby to William Joseph and Pearl M. McNasby
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber JHH 371 Folio 216

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- August 3, 1973: The Farmers National Bank of Annapolis, as personal representative for the estate of William Joseph McNasby, to John W. and Mary Lou Turner
Estate 15711, Docket GMN 6, Folio 552
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber 2611 Folio 129
- February 13, 1986: John W. and Mary Lou Turner to 723 Second Street Joint Venture
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber 4026 Folio 898
- September 28, 1989: 723 Second Street Joint Venture to City of Annapolis
Land Records of Anne Arundel County
Liber 4939 Folio 503

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McNasby Seafood and Oyster Company
723 Second Street
Eastport
Annapolis Quad

