

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**Waterwitch Hook and Ladder Fire Station #1**  
**33 East Street**  
**AA-483**

The Waterwitch Hook and Ladder Fire Station, #1, was constructed in 1913 and was the second building erected on the site by the City of Annapolis for the fire department. The first building was constructed in 1885 and served as the headquarters of the Waterwitch firefighters. The present, Italianate-style building was occupied by the all-volunteer Waterwitch fire department until 1986, when the firefighting unit was transferred to the new Central Fire Station on Taylor Avenue in an effort to modernize and centralize the Annapolis Fire Department. In 1987, the City sold the Waterwitch fire station to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, which currently has offices in the building.

The Waterwitch Hook and Ladder Station, #1 was originally built in 1913 and has received two significant additions. Designed in an Italianate-style of architecture, the main building is a two-story brick structure with corner towers rising above the roofline and a large arched opening for the fire trucks on center of the facade. In 1926, the building was enlarged by a sympathetically designed one-story addition, with a larger arched opening, built to abut the west elevation of the main building. Another lower, one-story addition was built after 1954 and abuts the west side wall of the 1926 addition. In 1987, the building was fully renovated as office space; though many of the interior materials survive, the floorplan was completely reconfigured by the addition of offices, kitchen and bathroom facilities.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
ANNAPOLIS SURVEY

Inventory No. AA-483

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Waterwitch Hook and Ladder Fire Station, #1  
common/other name Chesapeake Bay Foundation Inc.

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2. Location

=====

street & number 33 East Street not for publication       
city or town Annapolis vicinity       
state Maryland code MD county Anne Arundel code 003  
zip code 21041

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes  Name of Listing Annapolis Historic District  
No

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)  
Cat: Government Sub: Fire Station  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)  
Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: Business  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)  
Italianate  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation Brick  
roof Slate shingles  
walls Brick  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Annapolis Survey

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8. Statement of Significance  
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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 a 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.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
Annapolis Survey

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1913  
\_\_\_\_\_

1926  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1913  
\_\_\_\_\_

1926  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation undefined  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References  
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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Anne Arundel County Assessment Records. 1876-1896. Maryland State Archives. Record Group C35.

Anne Arundel County Land Records. Anne Arundel County Courthouse and Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

*Archives of Maryland*, XIX-XXVIII. Maryland State Archives, 1696.

Drawbaugh, Kevin. "After 101 Years, Waterwitch Awaits its Last Call." *The Capital*. September 4, 1986, p 4.

McIntire, Robert Harry. *Annapolis Maryland Families*. Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, Inc., 1980.

Papenfuse, Edward and Jane McWilliams. "Southern Urban Society after the Revolution: Annapolis, Maryland, 1782-1786." Final Report for NEH Grant #H69-0-178, Historic Annapolis Foundation, 1969.

Record Group 29 "Records of the Bureau of the Census." 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920 Census; Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

**Maps and Drawings**

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1885, 1891, 1896, 1897, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, 1930, 1954.

**Photographs**

Historic Annapolis Foundation, Photographic Collection: East Street.

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10. Geographical Data  
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Acreage of Property 4,052 Square Feet

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

The Waterwitch Hook and Ladder Fire Station, #1 at 33 East Street is located on Parcel 1399 as designated on Tax Map 4-6.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

The fire station has been associated with Parcel 1399 since its construction in 1913.

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title L. Trieschmann & K. Williams, Architectural Historians  
organization Traceries date March 2, 1995  
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283  
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====  
12. Property Owner  
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name Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Inc  
street & number 162 Prince George Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Annapolis state MD zip code 21401  
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Waterwitch Hook and Ladder Fire Station, #1  
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=====  
The Waterwitch Hook and Ladder Station, #1 located at 33 East Street was erected in 1913 and has received two significant additions. Designed in an Italianate-style of architecture, the main building is a two-story brick structure with corner towers rising above the roofline and a large arched opening for the fire trucks on center of the facade. In 1926, the building was enlarged by a one-bay rear extension to the main block and by a sympathetically designed one-story addition abutting the west elevation of the main building and similarly featuring a large arched opening on the facade. Another lower, one-story addition was built after 1954 and abuts the west side wall of the 1926 addition. In 1987, the building was fully renovated as office space; though many of the interior materials survive, the floor plan was completely reconfigured by the addition of offices, kitchen and bathroom facilities.

#### EXTERIOR

The Waterwitch Fire Station at 33 East Street is an imposing two-story buff brick structure designed in an Italianate style of architecture with additions. The original 1913 building is rectangular in plan and is covered with an overhanging front gable roof, sheathed with slate, and featuring exposed rafter ends on the side walls. The building is characterized by a large arched opening on the first story, four bays of equally spaced windows on the second story, a projecting and dominant cornice, and two corner towers which project from the gabled roofline above. A siren is housed within a diminutive round tempietto, located atop the eastern tower, and giving the otherwise symmetrical building an unbalanced appearance. The 1926 addition to the firehouse is a one-story building constructed against the west side wall of the original building and fronting on East Street. It is also of brick construction and its architectural treatment and materials are sympathetic to the existing building. Trapezoidal in plan, this addition is similarly characterized by a large arched opening. A one-story brick addition, built after 1954, abuts the west side wall of the earlier addition. Though lacking architectural detail, the buff brick and plain, wide cornice are features derived from the original building and the 1926 addition.

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1913 Building:

The facade (north elevation) of the building, facing East Street and directly on axis with Martin Street, is literally a veneer to the utilitarian structure behind. The facade is constructed of buff brick, laid in Flemish bond, and features diamond-shaped brick panels, concrete keystones in the window and door openings, a central gable with a lunette window, and other decorative features. A large, central, arched opening for fire trucks is a character-defining feature of the building. The archivolt is formed by brick stretchers and is slightly raised from the brick wall surface. The arch is articulated by a concrete keystone at the top and by concrete imposts on the sides. The piers of the arch have quoining, simulating stone work, and giving the applied piers a more structural appearance. On either side of the large arched opening, for decorative purposes only, are diamond-shaped brick panels. The recently installed double wood doors are operable hanging trolley doors with four-lights in the upper portion of both doors.

Above the arched entry, set within a rectangular panel which spans almost the width of the building, is the name of the fire company, "Waterwitch H&L" with the company number, "No.1" flanking either side. Historic photographs show that another panel, which was arched and read simply "Waterwitch" with "No 1" to either side, preceded the present panel on the building.

The second story of the building consists of four equally spaced windows. The windows are filled with 4/1 sash and have concrete sills and brick jack-arched lintels with a concrete keystone. Historic photos indicate that 6/6 or 6/1 windows filled these openings.

A bold, wide, overhanging cornice located above the second story windows dominates the facade of this addition. Its horizontality is broken by a front center gable, featuring a round window with a fixed light divided into eight segments. The entablature is comprised of a plain frieze board and a boxed cornice with a cyma recta profile. At each front corner, projecting from the roof above the cornice, are two square towers, covered with pyramidal roofs, clad with standing seam metal. The towers are articulated at their corners by quoining. Each tower is pierced, on each

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elevation, by double, 10-light casement windows. A wide, plain frieze board and projecting cornice clearly delineates the walls of the towers from their roofs. Atop the eastern tower is the fire siren, housed within a diminutive, round temple, or tempietto. The tempietto is formed by six Doric columns and is covered with a domed roof, clad with sheets of metal.

The east and west sides of the building are utilitarian in appearance and have few decorative features. The brick facade extends approximately five feet deep along the side walls; the actual side walls are constructed of red brick laid in a five-course American bond pattern. These walls originally extended five bays in depth; during the 1926 enlargement of the building, one bay was added. This rear bay addition is clearly noted in the brickwork where a clean line separates the original from the addition.

The east elevation is separated from the building next to it by a wide passage. A metal fire escape leads from ground level to the top of the building. The first story of this elevation has four 6/1 windows and two door openings. The 6/1 windows all have brick header sills and jack-arched brick lintels. One of the doors, in the first bay from the front of the building, is original and similarly has a jack-arched lintel. The other door, located in the fourth bay from the front, is a bulkhead entry that is clearly not original. The second story of the east elevation has six 6/1 windows, all with header brick sills and jack-arched brick lintels. A door, located at the top of the fire escape, also features a jack-arched brick lintel.

The west elevation is only partially exposed, as the 1926 addition abutted the first story of this side wall, along its original five bays. On the first story, therefore, the only bay exposed is the end bay, which features a single 6/1 window. The second story of the west elevation has six, 6/1 windows. Similar to the east elevation, all of these windows have brick header sills and jack-arched brick lintels.

The rear elevation of the building was not accessible for survey.

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1926 Addition:

The one-story brick building abutting the west side wall of the 1913 firehouse was designed in close consideration of the original structure. Constructed to house an additional fire truck, it is one-bay wide and four and five bays deep on its west and east sides, respectively. It is covered with a flat roof with a light well and is articulated with a heavy cornice that imitates the cornice of the 1913 building.

The facade of the addition is flush with the 1913 building and similarly fronts directly onto East Street. This wall consists of one large arched opening. The arch is almost identical in detail to that found next door and similarly features brick voussoirs, and concrete keystones and imposts. No decorative panels appear on either side of the arch in this addition.

Above the arch is the wide, overhanging cornice, formed by a wide, plain frieze board, a boxed cornice and cyma recta profile above. This cornice is a direct copy of that next door and appears somewhat disproportionate to this one-story building.

Post 1954 Addition:

Built against the west wall of the 1926 addition, this lower, one-story structure was built as office space for the firehouse. Though the building uses similar materials and details, it is less decorative and is presented in a Colonial Revival-style, as opposed to the Italianate-style of the 1913 building and the 1926 addition. The building is of brick construction, with a buff brick front veneer, and is covered with a flat roof. A large, 16-light show window is presented in a Colonial Revival style. It is set flush with the wall surface and is flanked by 4/4 double-hung sash, dominates the facade. A plain, wide frieze board, similar to that found on the 1913 building and its 1926 addition, but lacking the overhanging boxed cornice, culminates the top of the building.

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**INTERIOR:**

The interior of the firehouse has been completely renovated since the building ceased to operate as a firehouse in 1987. Currently serving as offices for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the three individual buildings are connected on the interior and have been divided into a series of rooms. The main (1913) building originally consisted of a large engine room and side passage stair leading to the second floor level. The fire engine room, now the garage, has been reduced in size: the side stair is closed off from the engine room, a concrete block partition wall divides the rear of the space, and an acoustical tile ceiling hangs from the original. The east side wall of this room is three bays deep and exposes the original exterior brick wall, door and window openings, as well as a painted symbol of the Waterwitch Fire Company. A door leads from the rear concrete block partition wall to the back of the 1913 building and into the 1926 addition. The rear rooms of the 1913 building are all 1987 offices with drywall partition walls and moveable cubicle office spaces. A large conference area behind the offices was closed off and not available for survey.

The second floor of the 1913 building is reached by a straight-flight stair, closed to the original engine room, but reached from a door in the 1926 addition. The second floor has been entirely remodelled to accommodate offices and is equipped with drywall partitions, acoustical ceiling tiles, and wall-to-wall carpeting. Plain window trim with architrave lintels is in excellent condition and is found on all of the windows of this floor.

The 1926 addition consists of a large front room entered directly from the outside, and a partition wall dividing this reception area from the bathroom and kitchen facilities behind it (both 1987 additions). The front reception area, formerly an engine room, features an original light well and pressed tin ceiling and crown molding. The tin ceiling is composed of square panels, decorated with a circular garland motif and survives in excellent condition. The original exterior wall of the 1913 building, with infilled jack-arched openings, is exposed on the east wall of this room. A door opening cut into the front bay of this wall leads to the straight-flight stair and the second floor of the 1913 building.

Behind the reception area of this 1926 addition is a post-1987

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partition wall and the recent kitchen and bathroom facilities. The kitchen is built into the end of the trapezoidal-shaped building, and is, thus, triangular in plan.

The post-1954 addition is similarly offices that were not available for survey.

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The Waterwitch Hook and Ladder Fire Station, #1, was constructed in 1913 and was the second building erected on the site by the City of Annapolis for the fire department. The first building was constructed in 1885 and served as the headquarters of the Waterwitch firefighters. The present, Italianate-style building was occupied by the all-volunteer Waterwitch fire department until 1986, when the firefighting unit was transferred to the new Central Fire Station on Taylor Avenue in an effort to modernize and centralize the Annapolis Fire Department. In 1987, the City sold the Waterwitch fire station to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, which currently has offices in the building. The building is an excellent example of the Italianate-style of architecture and contributes to the architectural and historical understanding of the Annapolis Historic District.

#### **SITE HISTORY**

The Waterwitch Hook and Ladder Fire Station at 33 East Street is located on a portion of property surveyed by Stoddert in 1718 and designated Lot 95. At the time of the survey, Lot 95 was owned by Amos Garrett. One of the most important merchants in Annapolis in the early 18th century, Amos Garrett made his fortune by lending money at interest and dealing in imported goods. Following Garrett's death in 1726, his heirs sold the property to Patrick Creagh for 190 pounds in currency. A prominent Annapolis shipbuilder, Patrick Creagh combined mercantile interests with house building and slave trade.

Despite this success, Creagh experienced financial difficulties by 1754 with London merchants Bartholomew Pomeroy and Joseph Janson. Owing approximately 1800 pounds, Creagh was forced to mortgage most of his property to the merchants. The mortgage was to be paid by 1758, yet by Creagh's death in 1760, Pomeroy and Janson had still not collected the money. Patrick Creagh left a Last Will and Testament, bequeathing "...lots and a dwelling house where I now live in Annapolis" to his wife Frances Creagh and, after her death to their daughter Elizabeth Creagh. In 1761, Thomas Rutland purchased the property from Pomeroy and Janson for 350 pounds sterling. Rutland received full title to the property in 1780 from Elizabeth Creagh Mackubin, Patrick Creagh's daughter.

Merchant Thomas Rutland used the inherited property as collateral

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to purchase tobacco on credit from Charles Carroll and George Mason. Carroll eventually sought to obtain possession of the land when Rutland failed to pay on the principal of his debt. Unable to sell his imported goods to pay the mounting debts, Rutland was forced by the Chancery Court to transfer to Carroll property three times the value of the debt.<sup>1</sup> Other creditors were not as fortunate.

In 1786, John Creagh Mackubin, son of Elizabeth Creagh and Richard Mackubin, purchased the upper portion of Lot 95, including the Patrick Creagh House, in an attempt to raise money for Rutland. Unfortunately, shortly before Rutland's death in 1789, the Sheriff of Anne Arundel County confiscated all of Lot 95 to satisfy a debt incurred by Rutland to James Little prior to the sale to Mackubin. Consequently, Mackubin lost not only the property, but the 2000 pounds he paid to Rutland. The Sheriff sold the upper portion of Lot 95 with buildings at a public auction to Absalom Ridgely in 1788 for 256 pounds currency.

Absalom Ridgely, (1747-1818) a merchant, owned a great deal of land throughout Annapolis that he used as rental property. According to the Federal Direct Tax of 1798, Ridgely was charged with a one-story brick dwelling house, 50' x 16' on Prince George Street, with John Smith as tenant; and with a two-story frame dwelling house 16' x 20' on Prince George Street with Charles Ridgely as tenant. In 1804 Catherine Latimer, the widow of Thomas Rutland, sold her dower rights to Ridgely for 275 pounds. When Absalom Ridgely died in 1818, the rental property was devised to his sons, David and John Ridgely. It was purchased in 1820 by Alexander B. Hagner. According to the 1820 plat map for the extension of East Street which indicates that stable buildings run by John Smith were located on the site, it appears that Hagner leased the property.

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<sup>1</sup> Chancery Records 16 Folio 314

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**PROPERTY HISTORY**

In 1852, John H. and Anna Smith of Baltimore purchased the property.<sup>2</sup> In 1860, Smith was assessed for one house and two lots on Prince George Street. By 1863, the property, which contained a house and lot on Prince George Street and extending through to East Street, was sold to John Benjamin. John Leslie Benjamin (1809-1899) worked as a grader for the Annapolis Elkridge Railroad, grocer and waterman, as well as serving as city commissioner. Benjamin sold the upper portion of Lot 95 to the Vestry of St. Anne's Episcopal Church in 1874. Retaining a triangular portion of the larger lot, the Church sold the northeastern section, fronting on East Street, to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Annapolis for \$300.00 in 1885.

Immediately following the city's purchase of the land, a one-story rectangular structure was constructed on the site by the City of Annapolis. As noted on the 1891 Sanborn map, the rectangular structure was used as the Waterwitch Hook and Ladder House. Nicknamed the Ghetto Gang, the Waterwitch firefighters were officially established in 1885.<sup>3</sup> The frame structure, clearly one story in 1891, became two stories with a bell tower by 1897. At the turn of the century, the Hook and Ladder House was enlarged by a frame addition on the south elevation. Named the Waterwitch Hook and Ladder Company, #3, the fire station included one truck, four extinguishers, one hose cart and 500 feet of hose.<sup>4</sup> The building was constructed with a slanted garage floor so that the horse-drawn pumps could get a rolling start onto the street.<sup>5</sup> In 1913, the two-story frame fire station was razed and replaced by the present two-story brick Italianate-style building with towers.

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<sup>2</sup> No evidence has been found to determined if the lessee John Smith who held stables on the property is the same John H. Smith of Baltimore who purchased the land in 1852.

<sup>3</sup> Kevin Drawbaugh. "After 101 Years, Waterwitch Awaits its Last Call." *The Capital*. September 4, 1986, p 13.

<sup>4</sup> Sanborn Maps of 1903 and 1908.

<sup>5</sup> Drawbaugh, p 13.

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#### BUILDING HISTORY

Renamed the Waterwitch Hook and Ladder Company, #1 following the construction of the present building in 1913, the fire department was made up of 27 volunteer firefighters and one paid driver. The equipment included one LaFrance Hook and Ladder truck, two five-gallon chemical extinguishers, and 400 feet of hose on a reel.<sup>6</sup>

While the City of Annapolis retained ownership of the fire house and lot, Anne Arundel County purchased the northwestern portion of the lot from St. Anne's Church in 1917 for use by the fire department. The deed of conveyance indicates that the irregular lot measured 16' on East Street and extended back 45'7" to the southeast.<sup>7</sup> By 1921, the Waterwitch Fire Company had expanded to 30 volunteers and two drivers.<sup>8</sup> The equipment included one American LaFrance auto combination chemical engine (type 31) and ladder truck with two 35-gallon chemical tanks and a 306 foot ladder, one American LaFrance auto combination hose car pumper and chemical engine (type 75) with two 35-gallon tanks, a 250-foot chemical hose and a 900-foot hose.<sup>9</sup> Located on the second floor, in the kitchen behind the refrigerator is a single entry door that leads to the "down-only brass sliding pole."

In 1926, the building was enlarged to house an additional fire truck, a one-story brick addition with a skylight was built to abut the south elevation of the station. In December 1958, the County Commissioners of Anne Arundel County sold the northwestern portion of the lot, containing the 1926 side addition, to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Annapolis for \$830.00 at a public sale.

In 1986, the fire fighting unit was transferred to the new Central Fire Station on Taylor Avenue in an effort to modernize and centralize the Annapolis Fire Department. The Waterwitch fire station was sold in 1987 to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for

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<sup>6</sup> Sanborn Maps of 1913.

<sup>7</sup> Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber 1258 Folio 486.

<sup>8</sup> Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber SH 25 Folio 308.

<sup>9</sup> Sanborn Maps of 1921.

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\$238,000.<sup>10</sup> The Foundation, which also owned St. Anne's Chapel at the corner of Prince George and East streets, renovated the building for use as office space. The Waterwitch Hook and Ladder Fire Station is currently owned and occupied by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

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<sup>10</sup> Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber 4297 Folio 531.

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**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Western Shore

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and  
Community Planning

**Resource Type(s)**

**Category:** Building

**Historic Environment:** Urban

**Historic Function (s):** Government/Fire Station

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

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**Chain of Title for 33 East Street:**

- 1726: Re-surveyed for Amos Garrett  
Liber B Folio 131
- 1730: Heirs of Amos Garrett to Patrick Creagh  
Lots 95, 97, and 98 with buildings  
Liber RD 2 Folio 216
- 1761: Patrick Creagh bequeathed to Frances Creagh  
and Elizabeth Creagh  
"...dwelling house and lot in Annapolis."  
Lot 95 and part of 96  
Anne Arundel County Wills,  
Liber L 31 Folio 336
- 1761: Bartholomew Pomeroy and Joseph Janson, who  
held the mortgage from Creagh, sold to Thomas  
Rutland  
Provincial Court Deeds  
Liber DD 2 Folio 206
- 1780: Elizabeth Mackubin, daughter and heiress of  
Patrick Creagh to Thomas Rutland  
Provincial Court Deeds  
Liber TBH 1 Folio 449
- January 1786: Thomas Rutland to John Creagh Mackubin, son of  
Elizabeth Mackubin  
Part of Lot 95  
Liber NH 2 Folio 376
- April 24, 1788: David Steuart, Sheriff of Anne Arundel County,  
to Absalom Ridgely  
Liber NH 3 Folio 405
- 1804: Randolph B. Latimer and wife Catherine, widow  
of Thomas Rutland, to Absalom Ridgely  
Dower Rights  
Liber NH 12 Folio 400
- December 8, 1820: John and David Ridgely to Alexander B. Hagner  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber WSG 7 Folio 430

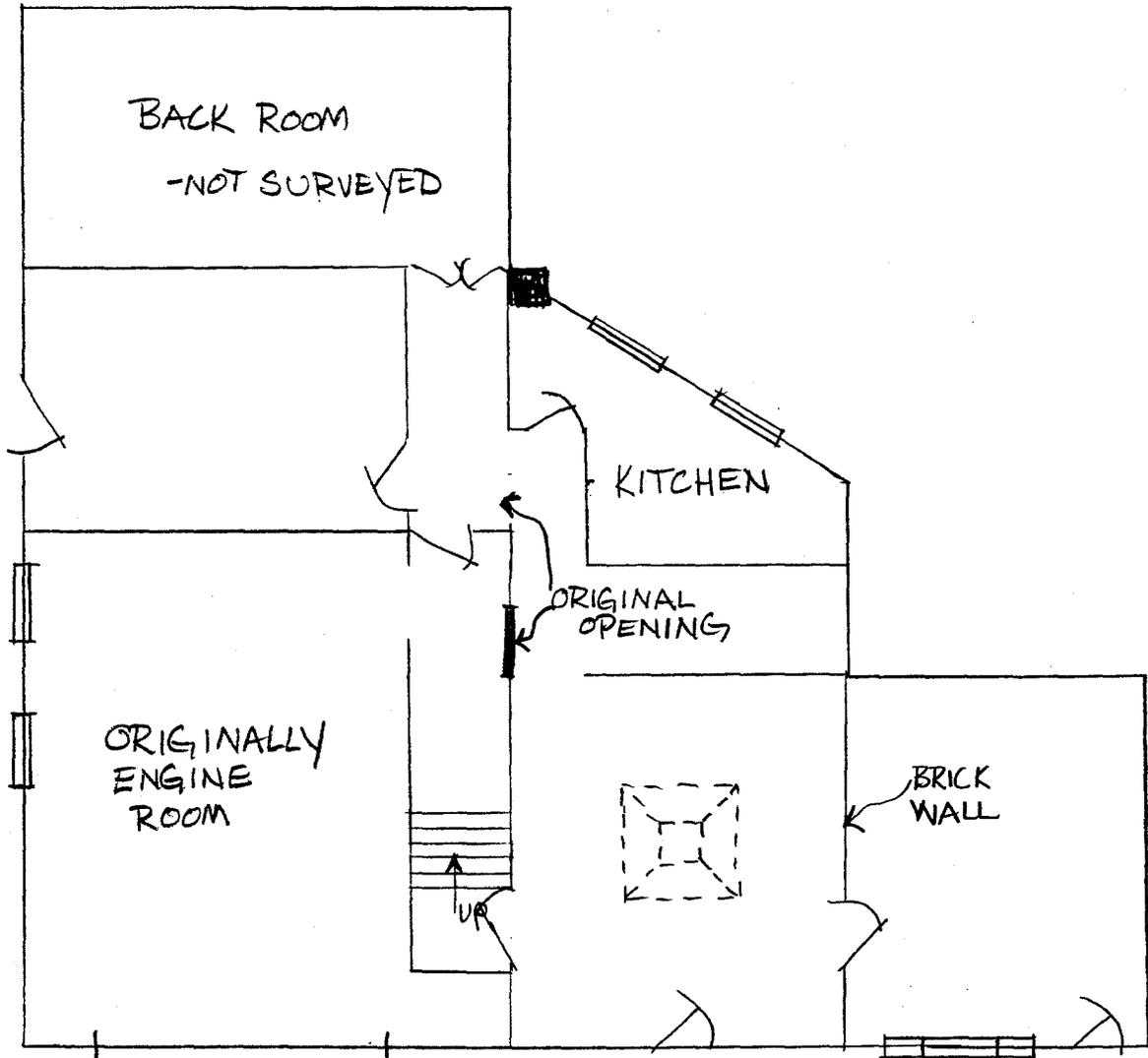
MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
ANNAPOLIS SURVEY  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. AA-483

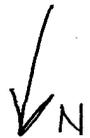
Waterwitch Hook and Ladder Fire Station, #1  
name of property  
Annapolis, Maryland  
county and state

- =====
- September 25, 1852: Alexander B. Hagner to John H. and Anna Smith  
of Baltimore  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber NHG 1 Folio 486
- August 29, 1863: John H. and Anna Smith to John Benjamin  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber NHG 11 Folio 471
- May 11, 1874: John L. Benjamin to Vestry of St. Anne's  
Episcopal Church  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber SH 8 Folio 388
- May 10, 1885: Vestry of St. Anne's Episcopal Church to Mayor  
and Aldermen of the City of Annapolis  
Northeastern portion of lot  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber SH 25 Folio 308
- February 27, 1917: Vestry of St. Anne's Episcopal Church to  
County Commissioners of Anne Arundel County  
Northwestern portion of lot  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber GW 132 Folio 30
- December 2, 1958: County Commissioners of Anne Arundel County to  
Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Annapolis  
Northwestern portion of lot  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber 1258 Folio 486
- March 19, 1987: Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Annapolis to  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation Inc.  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber 4297 Folio 531

AA-483



33 EAST STREET  
FIRST FLOOR



NOT TO SCALE





AA-483  
WATERWITCH FIRE HOUSE  
83 EAST STREET  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
APRIL 1995  
FACADE, VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST  
1 OF 11



AA-483  
WATERWITCH FIRE HOUSE  
33 EAST STREET  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
APRIL 1995  
MARYLAND SHPO  
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION ADDITIONS, VIEW  
LOOKING SOUTH  
2 OF 11



AA-483  
WATERWITCH FIRE HOUSE  
33 EAST STREET  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
APRIL 1995  
MARYLAND SHPO  
WEST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING EAST  
3 OF 11



AA-483  
WATERWITCH FIRE HOUSE  
33 EAST STREET  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
APRIL 1995  
MARYLAND SHPO  
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION, VIEW  
LOOKING EAST

5 OF 11



AA-483

WATERWITCH FIRE HOUSE

33 EAST STREET

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRALERIES

APRIL 1995

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION, VIEW

LOOKING NE

4 OF 11



AA-483

WATERVITCH FIRE HOUSE

33 EAST STREET

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

MAY 1995

MARYLAND SHPO

NE ELEVATION, VIEW LOOKING SE

7 OF 11



AA-483

WATERWITCH FIRE HOUSE

33 EAST STREET

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

APRIL 1995

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION, VIEW  
LOOKING EAST

6 OF 11



AA-483  
WATERWITCH FIRE HOUSE  
33 EAST STREET  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
APRIL 1995  
MARYLAND SHPO  
FIRST FLOOR OFFICE  
9 OF 11



AA-483  
WATERWITCH FIRE HOUSE  
33 EAST STREET  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
APRIL 1995  
MARYLAND SHPO  
FIRST FLOOR CEILING  
10 OF 11



AA-483

WATERWITCH FIRE HOUSE

33 EAST STREET

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

APRIL 1995

MARYLAND SHPO

FIRST FLOOR CEILING

11 OF 11



AA-483  
WATERWITCH FIRE HOUSE  
33 EAST STREET  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
APRIL 1995  
MARYLAND SHPO  
NE ELEVATION, VIEW LOOKING  
EAST

8 OF 11

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
 21 STATE CIRCLE  
 SHAW HOUSE  
 ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET  
 Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: <b>AA 483</b>	
NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:	
UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing	
U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:	
PRESENT FORMAL NAME: Waterwitch Fire Company No. 1	
ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:	
PRESENT USE: Fire Station	
ORIGINAL USE: Fire Station	
ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:	
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:	
PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent ( ) Good (X) Fair ( ) Poor: ( )	
THEME:	
STYLE: Victorian	
DATE BUILT: 1913	

COUNTY: Anne Arundel
TOWN: Annapolis
LOCATION: 33 East Street
COMMON NAME: Waterwitch No. 1
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Comm Map 34 Par 42
OWNER: City of Annapolis ADDRESS: Annapolis, MD 21401
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes (X) No ( ) Restricted ( )
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local (✓) State ( ) National ( )

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

- Foundation: Stone ( ) Brick (X) Concrete ( ) Concrete Block ( )
- Wall Structure
  - Wood Frame: Post and Beam ( ) Balloon ( )
  - Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick (X) Stone ( ) Concrete ( ) Concrete Block ( )
  - Iron ( ) D. Steel ( ) E. Other:
- Wall Covering: Clapboard ( ) Board and Batten ( ) Wood Shingle ( ) Shiplap ( ) Novelty ( ) Stucco ( ) Sheet Metal ( ) Aluminum ( ) Asphalt Shingle ( ) Brick Veneer (X) Stone Veneer ( ) Asbestos Shingle ( ) Bonding Pattern: English Other:
- Roof Structure
  - Truss: Wood (X) Iron ( ) Steel ( ) Concrete ( )
  - Other:
- Roof Covering: Slate (X) Wood Shingle ( ) Asphalt Shingle ( ) Sheet Metal ( ) Built Up ( ) Rolled ( ) Tile ( ) Other:
- Engineering Structure:
- Other:

Appendages: Porches ( ) Towers (X) Cupolas ( ) Dormers ( ) Chimneys (X) Sheds ( ) Ells (X) Wings ( ) Other:

Roof Style: Gable (X) Hip ( ) Shed ( ) Flat ( ) Mansard ( ) Gambrel ( ) Jerkinhead ( ) Saw Tooth ( ) With Monitor ( ) With Bellcast ( ) With Parapet ( ) With False Front ( ) Other:

Number of Stories: 2 1/2

Number of Bays: 4

Approximate Dimensions: 25 x 75

Entrance Location: Centered

THREAT TO STRUCTURE: No Threat (X) Zoning ( ) Roads ( ) Development ( ) Deterioration ( ) Alteration ( ) Other:
--

LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive ( ) Negative ( ) Mixed ( ) Other:
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ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

AA-483

Broken pediment as parapeted cornice, with full entablature, splayed lintels with stone keys at second floor windows; stone key and imposts at large round arched opening for fire engines at first floor; excellent corner towers (square with the east tower surmounted by a domed bell tower.) Oeil-de-boeuf window in gable end.

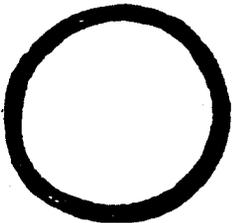
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Picturesque modified Colonial Revival fire station with superb assemblage of Colonial Revival design elements.  
Critical to streetscape.

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane( ) Woodland( ) Scattered Buildings( )  
Moderately Built Up( ) Densely-Built Up(✓)  
Residential( ) Commercial( )  
Agricultural( ) Industrial( )  
Roadside Strip Development( )  
Other:

RECORDED BY:

Russell Wright

ORGANIZATION:

Historic Annapolis, Inc

DATE RECORDED:

Aug. 1983

Form 10-445  
(5/62)

1. STATE Annapolis, Maryland  
 COUNTY  
 TOWN VICINITY  
 STREET NO. 33 East Street

ORIGINAL OWNER Annapolis Fire Dept.  
 ORIGINAL USE Fire house  
 PRESENT OWNER Annapolis Fire Dept.  
 PRESENT USE Fire house  
 WALL CONSTRUCTION brick  
 NO. OF STORIES 2 plus towers

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
 INVENTORY

2. NAME Waterwitch H-L No. 1

DATE OR PERIOD 1913  
 STYLE modified Colonial Revival  
 ARCHITECT  
 BUILDER

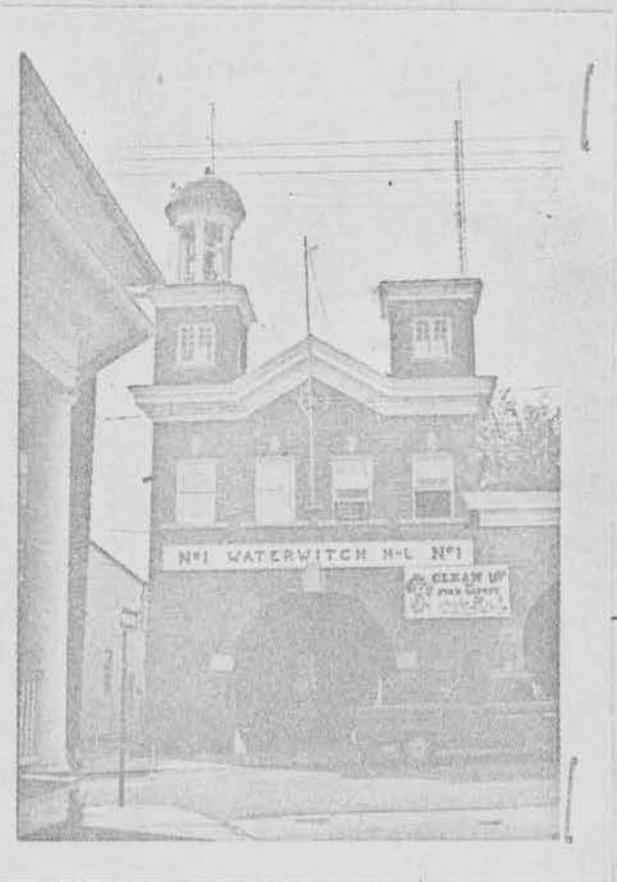
3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC YES

The Waterwitch Hook and Ladder Company No 1 firehouse is a well built and picturesque structure with its towers and cupola with peri\_style. Cornice, *ceuil* (~~ceuil~~) - de - boeuf window, stone keystones, and voussours are modified colonial Revival elements. Picturesque profile makes this building an addition to this part of town.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE



good



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)  
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

William D. Morgan  
 Columbia University  
 New York City.

DATE OF RECORD August 11, 1967

## Annapolis selling offices in fire plan

Anne Arundel Bureau of The Sun

ANNAPOLIS — The mayor of Annapolis thinks it's time to bring at least one small part of this historic town out of the horse and buggy era.

To do this, he is going to sell the office right out from under himself, move next door into City Hall, then use the money from the sale of his office in a restored town house to finance a new fire station in West Annapolis.

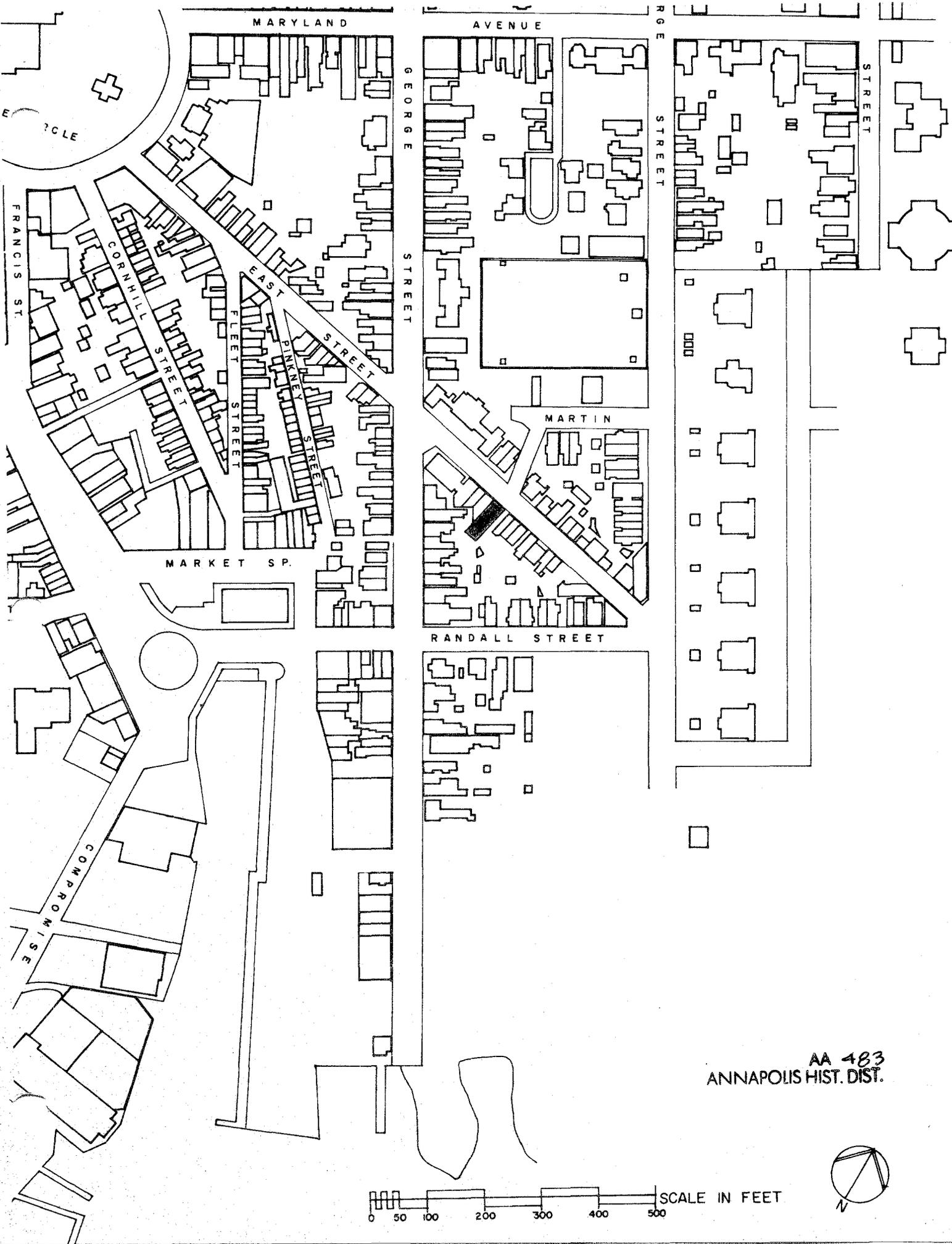
City Fire Chief Charles H. Steele said that will allow the fire department to close three old stations clustered around downtown Annapolis, and build a new one out near Taylor avenue and Annapolis street to serve the Naval Academy and state installations nearby.

Mayor Richard L. Hillman said the city will probably sell the house on Duke of Gloucester street that serves as his office, as well as the old fire stations on West street and across from City Hall, to help finance the new \$1.5 million station.

Chief Steele said some of the consolidation efforts have already taken place with the transfer of the City Hall-area station into the Waterwich station on East street downtown. Once the new Taylor avenue station is built, the Waterwich one will close and be sold also, he said.

Mayor Hillman said the state will provide half the cost of the new structure. His move next door will be the first time a mayor has occupied City Hall since 1969, he said.

Baltimore Sun July 3, 1984



MARYLAND

AVENUE

GEORGE STREET

GEORGE STREET

STREET

70' CLE

FRANCIS ST

CORN HILL STREET

EAST STREET

FLEET STREET

PINKNEY STREET

MARKET SP.

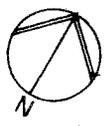
MARTIN

RANDALL STREET

COMPROMISE

AA 483  
ANNAPOLIS HIST. DIST.

SCALE IN FEET  
0 50 100 200 300 400 500





33 East

AA 483

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Russell Wright July, 1982

Maryland Historical Trust,

Annapolis, Maryland

NW Elevation/camera facing SE



AA-483

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WILLIAM D. MORGAN

Waterwitch Fire House  
8/16/67

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