

### Capsule Summary of 2-4 Francis Street (AA-496)

Constructed on the east side of Francis Street at Main Street, the building at 2-4 Francis Street was erected in the period between 1860 and 1877. The two-story brick building was erected specifically for commercial and social use by the Chesapeake Tribe #38 of the Improved Order of Red Men. Sited on the Free School Land, the present building was constructed on the site of the Caton House, which was constructed between the years 1788 and 1795. In addition to its historic association with the buildings located at 6-12 Francis Street, the building at 2-4 Francis Street is a good example of the commercial/social structures erected in the mid- to late-19th century in historic Annapolis.

Rectangular in plan, the building is constructed of brick laid in five-course American bond and is four bays wide. A one-story addition, constructed in six-course American bond brick, was erected on the rear of the building in circa 1878,<sup>1</sup> creating an L-shaped plan. By the late-19th century, the original facade was obscured by the application of a pressed brick front with a parapet, laid in all-stretcher bond, with a three bay storefront. The surface of the facade is recessed slightly, creating end piers and a denticulated parapet of brick. The front gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has a replacement interior brick chimney at the north corner.

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<sup>1</sup>Although the rear addition appears on the 1878 Hopkins Map, the brick bond, 6-course American bond, suggests it was constructed at a later date.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
ANNAPOLIS SURVEY

Inventory No. AA-496

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1. Name of Property

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historic name \_\_\_\_\_  
other names 710 Francis Street

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2. Location

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street & number 2-4 Francis Street not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Annapolis vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state Maryland code \_\_\_\_\_ county Anne Arundel code \_\_\_\_\_  
zip code 21401

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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>	_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	_____	objects
<u>1</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: <u>Commerce/Trade</u>	Sub: <u>Store</u>
<u>Social</u>	<u>Meeting Hall</u>
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Storage</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Commerce/Trade</u>	Sub: <u>Offices</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

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7. Description  
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Vernacular  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
roof Asphalt Shingles  
walls All-stretcher bond brick  
Five course American bond brick  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.) See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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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.

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=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

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

Period of Significance 1860-1877  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1860-1877  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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.)

Articles, Books, Published and Unpublished Resources

Anderson, Elizabeth B. Annapolis: A Walk Through History.  
Centreville, MD: Tidewater Publishers, 1984.

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and Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

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Cromley, Elizabeth and Stephen Calloway. The Elements of Style, A  
Practical Encyclopedia of Interior Architectural Details. New  
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Historical Trust. Department of Economic and Community  
Development, June 1986.

McIntire, Robert Harry. Annapolis Maryland Families. Baltimore:  
Gateway Press, Inc., 1979.

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Donaldson-Steuart House. October 4, 1971.

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

Radoff, Morris L. Buildings of the State of Maryland at Annapolis  
Publication No. 9. Annapolis, MD: The Hall of Records Commission,  
1954.

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

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Maps and Drawings

Bird's Eye View of the City of Annapolis, Charles Magnus, 1864, Reproduced, 1967.  
Bird's Eye View of the City of Annapolis, Edward Sachse, ca. 1858. (Maryland Hall of Records, MdHR G 1213-349)  
Church Circle, Annapolis, MD, ca. 1790. Watercolor by C. Milburn.  
Gray's New Map of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, MD., 1877.  
Hopkins, G.M. Map of Annapolis, 1878.  
Map of Annapolis, Southern Map Company, Baltimore, MD., 1905.  
Plan of Annapolis, Geo. H. Shafer, 25 July 1718.  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1885, 1891, 1896, 1897, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, 1930, 1954.

Photographs

Hayman Collection, 1920ca-1930ca. Record Group SC1406. Annapolis, Maryland: Maryland State Archives.

Mame Warren Collection, 1859-1910. Record Group SC985. Annapolis, Maryland: Maryland State Archives.

Photographic Collection at the Historic Annapolis Foundation.

City Directories

Mullin-Kille and Capital-Gazette City Directory of Annapolis, MD.  
Ohio: Mullin-Kille; Evening Capital; and the Maryland Gazette, 1949.

Polk's City Directory of Annapolis, MD. New York: R.L. Polk and Co., 1928, 1954.

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10. Geographical Data  
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Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

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

The property designated as 2-4 Francis Street occupies Parcel 830 on Tax Map 4-6.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building located at 2-4 Francis Street has been associated with Parcel 830 since its construction in the period between 1860 and 1877.

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11. Form Prepared By  
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name/title Kim Williams & L. Trieschmann/Architectural Historians  
organization Traceries date June 27, 1994  
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone (301) 656-5283  
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815  
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12. Property Owner  
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name Judith J. Williams  
street & number 101 Charles River Landing telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Williamsburg state VA zip code 23185  
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The building located at 2-4 Francis Street was constructed in the period between 1860 and 1877 on the corner of Francis Street and Main Street.<sup>1</sup> The two-story brick building was historically freestanding, but is now attached on the south side by a late-20th century building, and was covered with a low-pitched gable roof. In the late 19th century, the building was altered by the addition of a new front facade, which rises above the roofline and obscures the original building form. Specifically constructed as a commercial structure with a meeting hall on the second floor, the building provides a good example of this type of "social" architecture erected in mid- to late 19th century in Annapolis.

Rectangular in plan, the building is constructed of brick laid in five-course American bond and is four bays wide. A one-story addition, constructed in six-course American bond brick, was erected on the rear of the building in circa 1878,<sup>2</sup> creating an L-shaped plan. By the late-19th century, the original facade was obscured by the application of a pressed brick front with a parapet, laid in all-stretcher bond, with a three bay storefront. The surface of the facade is recessed slightly, creating end piers and a denticulated parapet of brick. The front gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has a replacement interior brick chimney at the north corner.

The facade, on the first story, consists of a recessed cant storefront and a side-passage entry that has been infilled with plate glass to create a display window. The storefront windows, set upon a brick foundation, are made up of single panes of plate glass with wood trim. The display window is separated from the transom by a denticulated wood trim. The storefront is supported by two fluted metal columns set at the inside corners of the windows. The single entry contains a plate glass and wood door with brass hardware and a single light transom. The projecting storefront is capped by a molded wood cornice that is ornamented with modillions. A large canvas awning juts from below the cornice. A historic photograph from 1919 indicates that the storefront has remained virtually unaltered since that time. However, the photograph does shows that windows were set upon a

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<sup>1</sup>The present building is not mentioned in the deed of conveyance (SH 38 Folio 124); however, it does appear on the Gray's New Map of Annapolis in 1877.

<sup>2</sup>Although the rear addition appears on the 1878 Hopkins Map, the brick bond, 6-course American bond, suggests it was constructed at a later date.

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solid foundation that was covered with wood panels.<sup>3</sup> The side-passage entry, set upon a granite sill, has wood surrounds, a single light transom, and a wood lintel ornamented with a shell and scroll motif. The double doors, as seen in the above mentioned 1919 photograph, have been replaced by a single pane of plateglass. On the interior, the entry has been enclosed by the replacement stair, creating a small display space.

The second story of the 24-foot high facade features four elongated windows, three of which are equally spaced. The openings have 6/6 wood sash, wood sills, small beaded surrounds, and a wood lintel ornamented with a shell and scroll motif.<sup>4</sup> Set directly above the windows are four recessed panels. The parapet, ornamented with brick dentils, is topped with thin-cut granite blocks.

The northwest elevation, fronting the 5 foot alley that leads to the rear of the building, has no visible or infilled openings. The elevation is finished with a projecting brick cornice. The southeast elevation, historically visible, abuts the building at 142 Main Street.

The rear elevation of the main building, on the second story above the addition, historically had three openings with straight wood lintels and granite sills. One of the openings, infilled with brick just below the lintel, has a flush replacement door accessible by the contemporary quarter-turn wood stair. The remaining two openings contain a single pane of glass and are inoperable. The on-story brick addition has a slightly pitched front gable roof, covered with asphalt shingles. Two bays in width, the addition has two window openings with wood lintels and granite sills. One window has a fixed pane of plate glass, while the other is covered with wood boards.

The interior of the building, renovated in 1993, has no historic architectural detailing remaining. Historically, the commercial space designated as 4 Francis Street occupied the first floor, extending to the rear brick addition. By 1897, the Sanborn Maps show that the side-passage entry at 2 Francis Street opened onto a

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<sup>3</sup>2-4 Francis Street, 1919. (Maryland State Archives, MdHR 2140-471).

<sup>4</sup>The historic photograph, dated 1919, indicates the windows had operable louvered wood shutters. (Maryland State Archives, MdHR G 2140-471).

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straight-flight stair that provided access to the second floor meeting hall and storage space.

Currently the first floor has several contemporary interior walls, creating office space. The straight-flight stair has been replaced by a quarter-turn stair, accessible from within the commercial space. The side-passage entry has been removed and the entry vestibule enclosed to create a display space.

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Constructed on the east side of Francis Street at Main Street, the building at 2-4 Francis Street was erected in the period between 1860 and 1877. The two-story brick building was erected specifically for commercial and social use by the Chesapeake Tribe #38 of the Improved Order of Red Men. Sited on the Free School Land, the present building was constructed on the site of the Caton House, which was constructed between the years 1788 and 1795. In addition to its historic association with the buildings located at 6-12 Francis Street, the building at 2-4 Francis Street is a good example of the commercial/social structures erected in the mid- to late-19th century in historic Annapolis.

Designated as Lot 13 on the Stoddert Map of 1718, the land on the northeast side of Francis Street between State Circle and the intersection of Main and Francis Streets was originally laid out as the Free School Land, containing 14,964 square feet. According to the Assembly Proceedings from 1696, Governor Francis Nicholson was:

...excited by a laudable zeal and pious inclination of promoting a Free-School within the Town and Port of Annapolis and being possessed of three lots of land in the said Town, lying to the foot of the Stadt-House Hill, on the eastward thereof, did not only freely give and bestow one of the said lots lying to the southwest side of the said lots, but also the sum of ten pounds sterling for and towards an house to be built thereon, but did also prevail with a certain Anthony, alias William Workman, formerly of Kent-Island, but then of Annapolis, Inn-holder, to advance, five and bestow one hundred and fifty pounds sterling more, for and towards the building of the said house or tenement on the aforesaid lot.<sup>5</sup>

The act further provided that Workman, together with bricklayer William Freeman from Philadelphia, began to construct the house, which was "...to be held and enjoyed by the said Workman, during his natural life, and afterwards to remain over to the use of the Free-School." Anthony Workman (alias William), born May 20, 1646, was the second son of William Workman, butcher, of the town of Colford, County of Gloucester, England. He assumed the name William upon the death of his elder brother, making him the direct heir to his father's small estate. Having arrived in the Colonies about 1668 as an indentured servant, Workman gained title to fifty acres in 1674 on Kent Island. Following several financial adventures such as smuggling and innkeeping, Workman had sufficient funds to acquire additional land, ultimately possessing 13 various

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<sup>5</sup>Assembly Proceedings, 1714-1726. 1715, Chapter IV. [Bacon's Laws] (Chapter I, VII-XIX, XXII-XXXIV, and XXXVI-XLIX, of Acts this Session printed in Volume 30 of Archives beginning at page 225).

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tracts with a total of 1,630 acres.<sup>6</sup>

Several sources state that Workman operated an inn or ordinary business in Annapolis, through which he became acquainted with Governor Francis Nicholson. It has been suggested by Arthur Trader, keeper of the Land Office records of Annapolis in the 1920s, that Nicholson was aware of the smuggling on Kent Island and that he made this fact clear to Workman.<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, Workman provided 150 pounds in sterling for the construction of Nicholson's Free-School, and was rewarded for his philanthropy, "by Ordinance of the General Assembly, had Liberty and License granted to him to keep an ordinary in the said house, during his natural life, free and discharged from the payment of the fine [tax] then imposed by law therefore."<sup>8</sup>

According to the records of the Assembly, the building was to be used as an ordinary by Workman and upon his death was to be used as the Free-School. It is believed that the inn or ordinary was called the Kentish Tavern, due to Workman's association with Kent Island. Workman died in 1708, leaving an estate valued at 1,461 pounds sterling. Mr. Trader states that there was nothing in Workman's will to indicate that he was ever associated with the Free-School property or that he maintained an inn/ordinary.

Although the 1696 Assembly ordered that the agreement with Workman and the Free-School be recorded in the Journal of the Governor and Council and the House of Delegates of the General Assembly, and enacted into law, it has been found not to have been recorded in either Journal. By 1715, the Rector, Governors and Visitors of Free-Schools petitioned the courts, requesting that the property be designated as the Free-School Land. King George I granted the petition:

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<sup>6</sup>Katherine Scarborough. "King William School in Annapolis." *Maryland Gazette*. April 29, 1924, p 4-5.

<sup>7</sup>Scarborough, p 5.

<sup>8</sup>Acts of Maryland, Liber 11, Number 4, Folio 120.

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that the aforesaid lot and houses, or tenements thereon erected, shall, in all times to come, be deemed, reputed and taken, to be and remain, and be invested and remain in the aforesaid Rector, Governors and Visitors of the Free-Schools, and their successors, as in an indefeasible estate in fee-simple, for ever, to the use of the Free-School in the City of Annapolis, and to no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever.<sup>9</sup>

It can only be assumed that the Free-School, known then as the King William's School, occupied the building known as the Kentish Tavern. The *Maryland Gazette* in 1773 advertised the schools need for instructors, announcing that "any gentleman who is qualified to teach the classics..." should apply. The advertisement stated that "there are very good apartments in the house, besides those appropriated for the use of the scholars, with a good kitchen and cellar: these being entirely for the use of the master, will render it a very comfortable place of residence." There is no documentation indicating when the King William's School closed, or if it ever actually occupied the Kentish Tavern on Francis Street.<sup>10</sup>

The existing lot histories of Annapolis, compiled by a N.E.H. study, contradicts the sources quoted above that indicate that what is now 10-12 Francis Street was the Kentish Inn/Workman House. The lot history states that the upper portion of the Free-School Land, 16-28 Francis Street, contained the Kentish Inn, while the portion from 2-12 Francis Street was separated from the upper portion sometime about 1773 when it was leased to Charles Steuart, who then occupied the Donaldson House at 10-12 Francis Street.

According to the existing lot histories, the Free-School leased all of Lot 13 to Sarah Potts by the late 18th century. A deed of conveyance documents that Potts leased the portions fronting on State House Circle and Francis Street to Robert Couden and James

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<sup>9</sup>Assembly Proceedings, 1714-1726. 1715, Chapter IV. [Bacon's Laws] (Chapter I, VII-XIX, XXII-XXXIV, and XXXVI-XLIX, of Acts this Session printed in Volume 30 of Archives beginning at page 225).

<sup>10</sup>The article by Katherine Scarborough states that although many of the possessions of the King William's School are archived at St. John's College, there is nothing to show that the school ever occupied the Kentish Inn or when/how the property passed into private ownership.

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Tootell in 1780.<sup>11</sup> The lot history further states that Chancery Papers #11315 indicate that the Kentish House was leased in 1769 to Reuben Merriweather, who leased it to Sarah Potts, who leased it to James Tootell. The Federal Direct Tax of 1798 charged Ann Tootell, the widow of James Tootell, with a brick dwelling house (32 x 16) known as the Kentish House at 16 Francis Street.

In the late 18th century, the lot was leased to George H. Steuart by St. John's College, formerly known as the King William's School. Steuart devised the lease to Charles and William Steuart. The property designated as 2-4 Francis Street was eventually sublet to William Caton, a hair dresser, who operated his business from a dwelling located next to the printing shop at 6 Francis Street. Between the years 1788 and 1795, Caton constructed a dwelling on the site, which was described as:

Beginning at the lower corner of the house William Caton now lives in, on the line of the Street and running back with the line of the gable end of the said house and with the line of a lane laid out for Captain Maybury to said pales towards the printing office, the length of said Caton's house then to the line of the street at the upper corner of the said house, then with the said house front to the beginning.<sup>12</sup>

The Federal Direct Tax of 1798 charged "William Caton, tenant of Charles Steuart of Dodon's heirs" with "one brick dwelling house, two stories (34 x 36), brick kitchen, single story (20 x 16)." In 1819, Caton defaulted on the mortgage and the sublet property reverted to the Steuart heirs, who sublet the Caton house along with the Donaldson house to Joseph Daley. The terms of the sale stated that Daley would pay \$2,800 for the whole property, retaining \$1,100 of the total for the purpose of paying off overdue ground rents to St. John's College.

Following Daley's death in 1820, the lease was owned by his wife Pricilla, who conveyed it to Jonathan Weedon and William Brewer. Weedon, who received only a 1/4 of the entire lot, was in possession of the property designated as 2-8 Francis Street. By 1853, the Visitors and Governors of St. John's College petitioned the court for the rights to their property. The question of ownership was never completely resolved as the College had not

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<sup>11</sup>Liber NH 1 Folio 107

<sup>12</sup>Chancery Papers 1270.

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occupied or controlled the property since the latter part of the 18th century, therefore the Courts order the property sold by trustee.

In 1860, the property where 2-8 Francis Street was eventually constructed was conveyed to the Chesapeake Tribe #38, Improved Order of Red Men. Based on the information provided in Equity 1106, which assigned Revell with the power to sell the property, the present buildings at 2-4 and 6-8 Francis Street had not been constructed as of yet.

The Improved Order of Red Men constructed the present building at 2-4 Francis Street in the period between 1860 and 1877 as their social hall. By 1885, the Red Men constructed a new, more "fashionable" building at 6-8 Francis Street, which provided a larger social hall on the second floor. The building at 2-4 Francis Street remained under the ownership of the Red Men for 100 years. It was used as a dry goods store on the first floor with storage on the second in 1885. By 1891, the first floor was occupied by a gentlemen's clothing store. According to the Sanborn Maps of 1897, the first floor was leased by a variety store and the second floor, while still noted as a social hall, was used for storage.

At the turn of the century, the entire building was used as a hardware and toy store, and then a clothing store. Just prior to 1919, the interior of the building was renovated to accommodate McCready's furniture store. The city directory for 1949 and 1954 indicates the building was used as Jess Radio and Electric. Herman I. and Mina Jess purchased the building from the Red Men in 1960. Herman Irving Jess, born about 1903, was in the United States Navy during world War II. He operated the radio repair shop on Francis Street throughout the mid-20th century. Upon his death in 1976, his wife Mina Elizabeth Earhardt received full ownership of the building, and subsequently bequeathed it to Judith Carol Jess Williams. As the current owner, Mrs. Williams leases the building at 2-4 Francis Street to Long and Foster Realtors.

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**Historic Period Theme:** Architecture, Landscape Architecture  
and Community Planning

**Geographic Organization:** Western Shore

**Chronological/Developmental Period:** Agricultural-  
Industrial Transition, 1815-1870  
Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-  
1930

**Resource Type(s):** Standing Structure

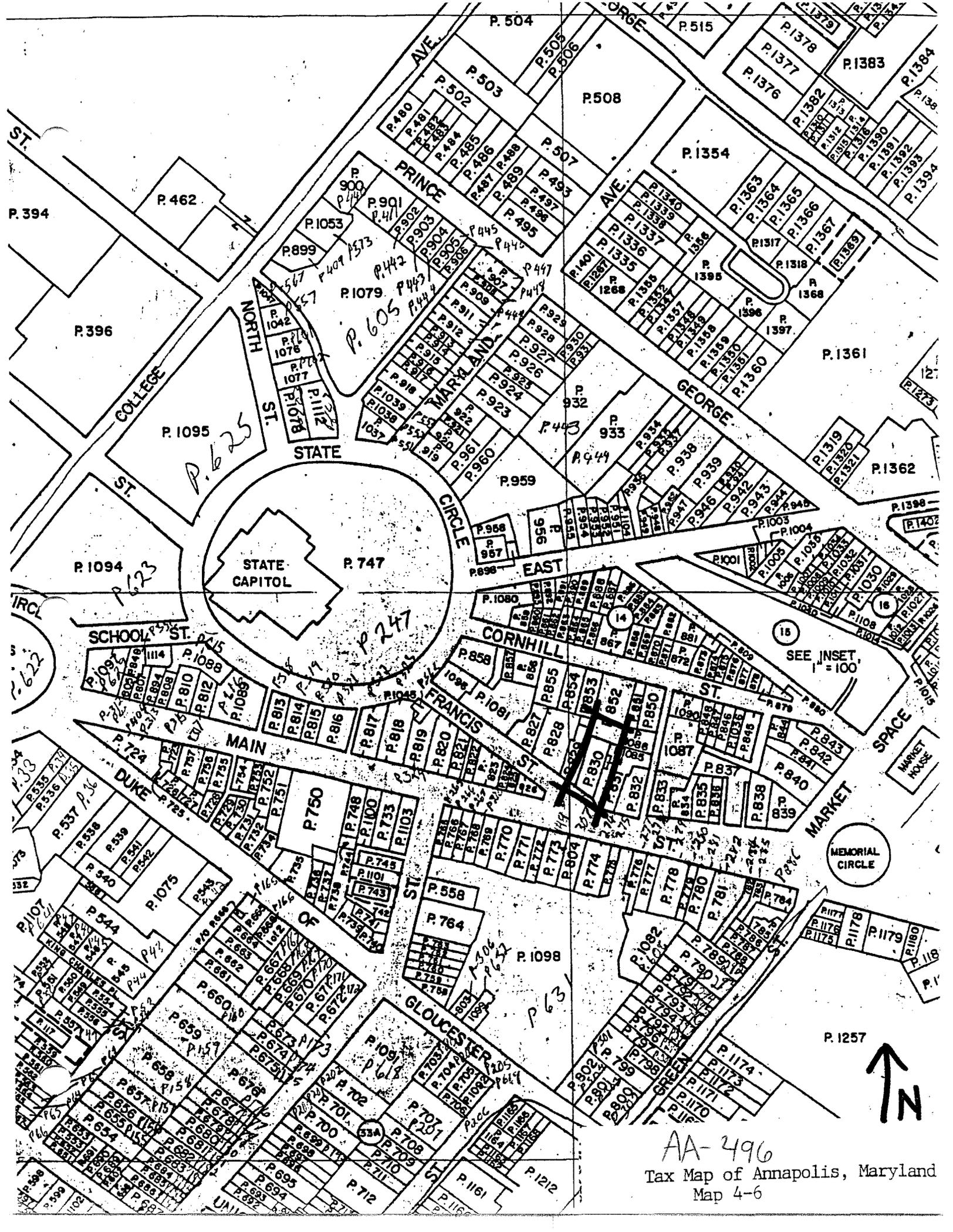
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**Chain of Title for 2-4 Francis Street:**

- 1773: Visitors of Free School leased to Charles Steuart  
All of property now known as 2-12 Francis Street
- 1774: Charles Steuart subleased to Isaac McHard for 7 years  
Liber B Folio 385
- 1788: William Caton subleased property from Charles Steuart,  
constructing a two-story brick dwelling  
Property includes 2-4 Francis Street
- 1819: Caton defaulted and lease revert back to Charles Steuart
- 1819: Heirs of Charles Steuart sell lease to Joseph Daley  
Sale included Donaldson House and Caton House  
Chancery papers 11315
- 1820: Joseph Daley devised lease to wife, Pricilla Daley
- 1823: Jonathan Weedon buys lease from Pricilla Daley  
Chancery Papers 11315
- 1853: I.W. White buys property involved in Equity Case 42  
Visitors and Governors of St. John's College versus  
Jonathan Weedon
- 1860: James Revell, Trustee, to The Chesapeake Tribe #38,  
Improved Order of Red Men  
Equity Case 1106, I.W. White versus F.O. White  
Liber SH 38 Folio 124
- 1960: The Chesapeake Tribe #38, Improved Order of Red Men to  
Herman I. and Mina Jess  
Liber 1404 Folio 305
- 1983: Judith J. Williams, personal representative for the  
estate of Mina E. Jess, to Judith J. Williams  
Liber 3603 Folio 123



AA-496  
Tax Map of Annapolis, Maryland  
Map 4-6



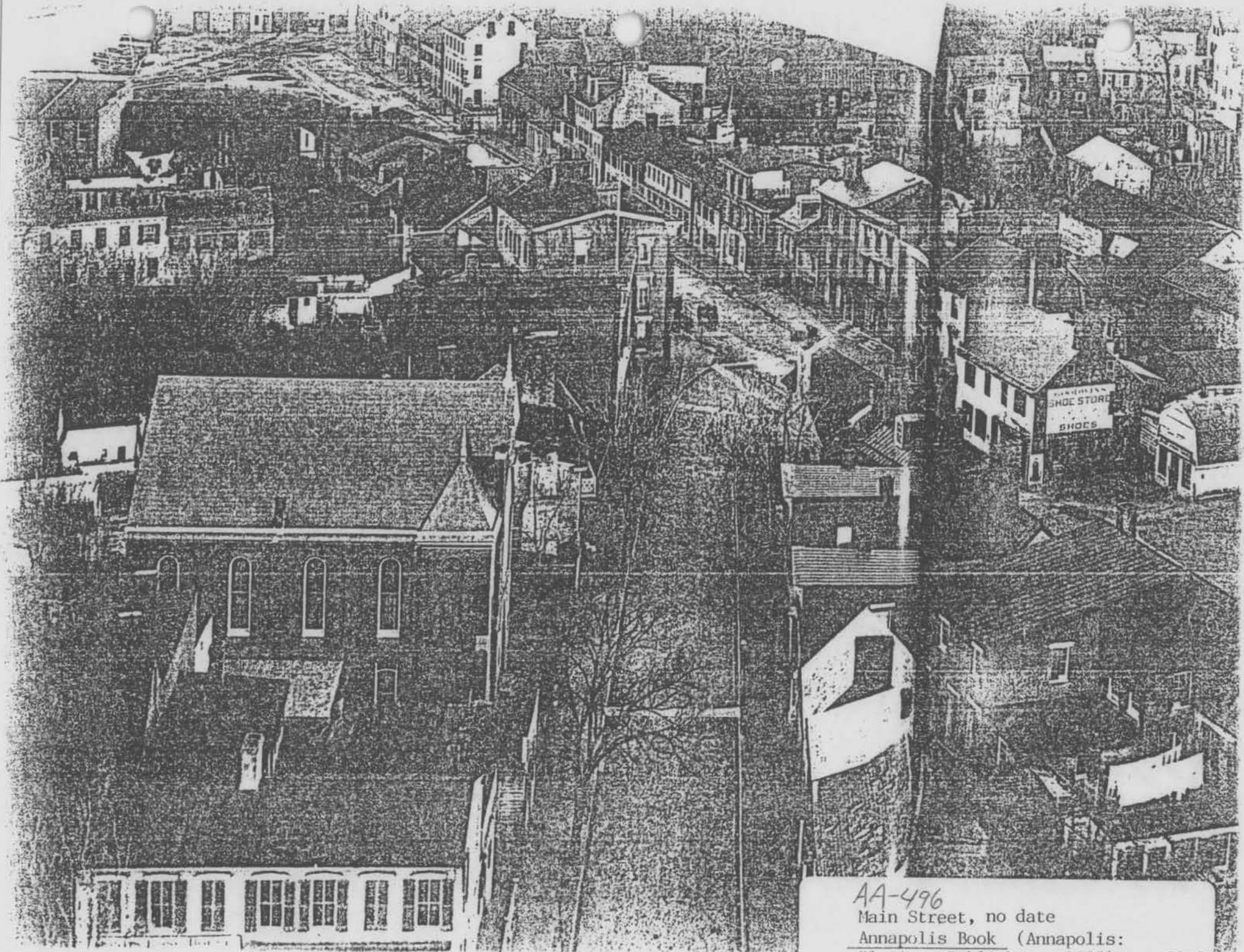
[before 1890]



[1890-91]

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Main Street at Francis Street  
before 1890 and 1890-91  
The Trains Done Been & Gone, Warren,  
Mame & Marion, p. 15



AA-496

Main Street, no date

Annapolis Book (Annapolis:

By George D. Fishman, 1990) p. 30-31



AA-496

2-4 FRANCIS ST  
ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1994

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST CORNER AND FACADE,  
LOOKING EAST

1/4



AA-496

2-4 FRANCIS ST  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES

JULY 1994

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST CORNER, LOOKING EAST

2/4



AA-496  
2-4 FRANCIS ST  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
JULY 1994  
MARYLAND SHPO  
FACADE DETAIL, LOOKING EAST

3/4



AA-496

4 FRANCIS STREET

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1994

NE ELEVATION

VIEW LOOKING SW

4/4

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

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET  
 Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: <b>AA 496</b>
NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:
UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing
U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:
PRESENT FORMAL NAME:
ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:
PRESENT USE: Retail/Office
ORIGINAL USE: Retail/Office
ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:
PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent ( ) Good (X) Fair ( ) Poor: ( )
THEME:
STYLE: Victorian Commercial
DATE BUILT: Pre 1878

COUNTY: Anne Arundel
TOWN: Annapolis
LOCATION: 2-4 Francis Street
COMMON NAME:
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Comm Map 32 Par 335
OWNER: Herman I. & Mina E. Jess
ADDRESS: 701 Springdale Avenue Annapolis, MD 21403
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes (X) No ( ) Restricted ( )
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local (X) 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: Common Other:
- Roof Structure
  - Truss: Wood (X) Iron ( ) Steel ( ) Concrete ( )
  - Other:
- Roof Covering: Slate ( ) Wood Shingle ( ) Asphalt Shingle (X) Sheet Metal ( )  
 Built Up ( ) Rolled ( ) Tile ( ) Other:
- Engineering Structure:
- Other:

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

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

Number of Stories: 2  
 Number of Bays: 4  
 Approximate Dimensions: 30 x 70

Entrance Location: Center & Right

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

LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive ( ) Negative ( ) Mixed ( ) Other:
---

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

AA-496

Corbeled cornice with brick drops; recessed panels above second floor windows; second floor windows are enriched by elaborate cast iron caps with floral and shell motifs, altered shop front has good dentiled and modillioned cornice.

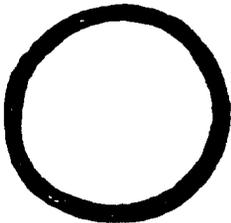
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

False fronted Victorian commercial structure with Greek Revival elements, in scale with building to north and contributing 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

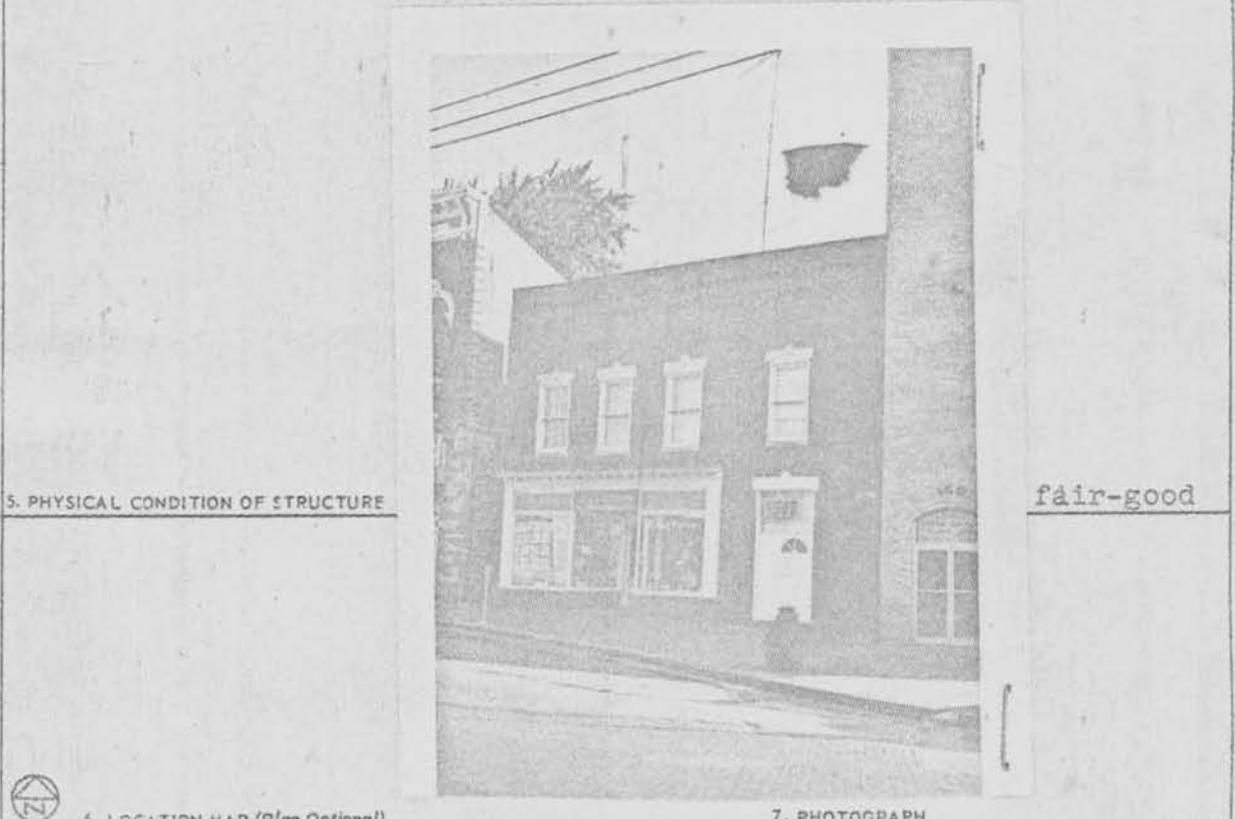
Form 10-445  
(5/62)

1. STATE Annapolis, Maryland COUNTY TOWN VICINITY STREET NO. 2 - 4 Francis Street  ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE commercial PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE Jess Radio Store WALL CONSTRUCTION brick NO. OF STORIES two	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY
	2. NAME  DATE OR PERIOD Mid 19th C. STYLE Greek-Victorian ARCHITECT BUILDER
3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	

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

2 - 4 Francis Street is a good 19th C. commercial building. Perhaps a post Civil War structure, it definitely looks Greek Revival. Facade is 4 bays (3 & 1) and besides Victorian storefront, windows and other features are Greek. Windows are 6/6 and have granite sills and extremely fine (and rare for Annapolis) lintels with floral ornament and topped by a shell design. Above the windows are recessed panels and a simple brick cornice (the facade above 2nd storey windows is a false, boomtown front). Important corner location (next to another good commercial structure - 8 Francis Street).

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



5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE

fair-good

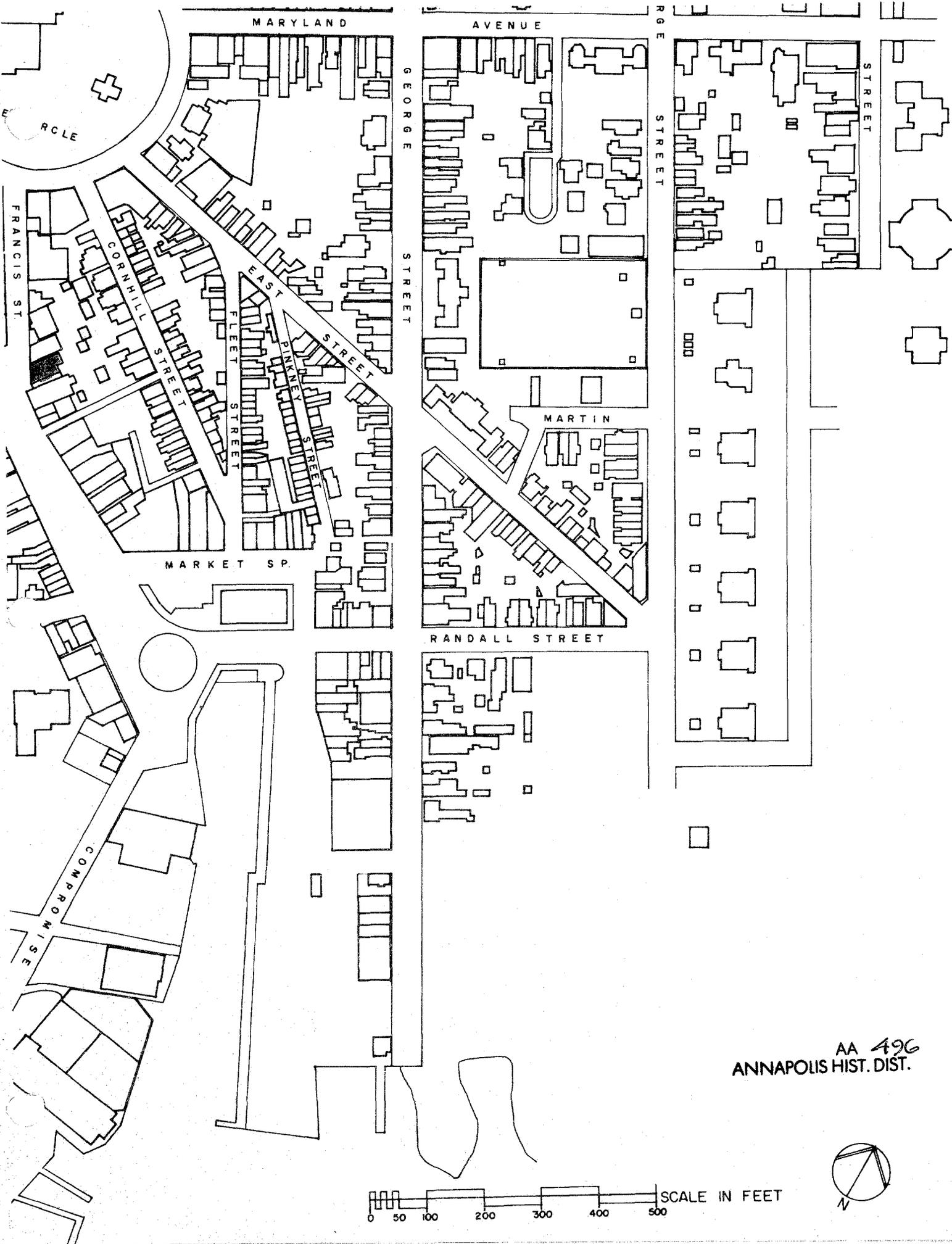


6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

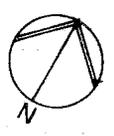
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Page)  
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  
 William D. Morgan  
 Columbia University  
 New York City  
  
 DATE OF RECORD August 14, 1967



AA 496  
ANNAPOLIS HIST. DIST.

SCALE IN FEET  
0 50 100 200 300 400 500





762

AA-496

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WILLIAM D. MORGAN

2-4 Francis St.

8/14/67



2-4 Francis

AA 494

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Russell Wright July, 1982

Maryland Historical Trust,

Annapolis, Maryland

SW Elevation/camera facing NE