

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**Rams Head Tavern (AA-701)**  
**31-33 West Street, Annapolis**

The building at 31-33 West Street was constructed in the years between 1831 and 1849 as a single-family dwelling and commercial store. The property was used as primarily as rental property from the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> until the fourth quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Despite the turnover of tenants, the building has had only four owners. It was constructed for merchant John W. Whittington, remaining in his family from 1830 until 1921. It was then purchased by tailor Abraham Snyder, whose family sold it in 1972. The property documents the transition of West Street, a primary route into the state capital, from a mixed residential and commercial route in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries to a major commercial corridor in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Although it no longer maintains a residential component, the present configuration of the façade reflects the building's historic mixed use.

The building is a large two-and-a-half-story, six-bay brick structure, altered in the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the addition of an Italianate-style storefront, and modified in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century by a long, single-story addition and major interior alterations. Set upon a rubble stone foundation, the building is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond, and is covered with a gable roof, clad with standing seam metal. The roof features two gable dormers, two massive slab end chimneys, and a corbelled brick cornice. A 19<sup>th</sup>-century two-story ell extends off the rear of the original main block and connects to a two-story gable-roofed brick building designated on historic maps as a dwelling. A single-story, modern brick addition (ca. 1995), built against a two-story infill addition, extends the building to the east. An early 19<sup>th</sup>-century smokehouse is located at the rear of the property.



**Condition**

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

The building known as the Rams Head Tavern is a large two-and-a-half-story, six-bay brick structure originally built as a single-family dwelling combined with a commercial store. Constructed in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the building was altered in the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the addition of an Italianate-style storefront, and modified in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century by a long, single-story addition and major interior alterations. Set upon a rubble stone foundation, the building is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond, and is covered with a gable roof, clad with standing seam metal. The roof features two gable dormers, two massive slab end chimneys, and a corbelled brick cornice. A 19th-century two-story ell extends off the rear of the original main block and connects to a two-story gable-roofed brick building designated on historic maps as a dwelling. A single-story, modern brick addition (ca. 1995), built against a two-story infill addition, extends the building to the east. An early 19th-century smokehouse is located at the rear of the property.

On the interior, the building is divided into two separate parts: the western half which consists of a side-passage plan that originally served as a dwelling; and the eastern half which included commercial space on the ground level, and residential space above.

**Exterior Description:**

The north elevation of the building facing West Street is divided into six equal bays on the second floor and a storefront and side-passage entry on the first floor. The projecting storefront, located in the eastern half of the structure was built in the late 19th century and executed in an Italianate style. It is constructed of wood and features a central, canted entry with wide expanses of plate glass windows to either side, with wood panels below. A projecting ogee cornice with wood brackets and incised detailing in the frieze tops the windows.

The first story of the western half of the building includes a late 19th-century, Italianate-style side entry door and two 9/6 windows. The entry, raised above ground level, is reached by straight-flight granite stair. The stair has a contemporary iron railing with Brass boars' heads atop the iron newels. A projecting cornice with wood brackets surmounts the entry. The wood and glass replacement door is recessed into the brick wall and is topped by a transom. A contemporary English basement entry under this stair leads into the pub room.

The second story of the facade has six symmetrically arranged 6/6 windows with new wood sills. Recessed slightly within the brick wall, the openings are framed by narrow beaded surrounds and louvered shutters. The front slope of the roof has two dormers above the second and fifth bays of the second story. The dormers have cornice returns with paneled pilasters and metal cheek walls.

The late 19th century building at 35 West Street abuts the west elevation of the once-freestanding building. The slab end chimney at 31-33 West Street rises above the rooflines of both buildings. Similarly, the east elevation is abutted by a 1920s brick store that has since been captured by the Rams Head Tavern's Fordham Brewing Company. Above this store at 29 West Street, the unfenestrated east elevation of the building at 31-33 West

# Maryland Historical Trust

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Street is visible. Like the west elevation, the east elevation has a slab end chimney that rises above the side gable of the roof.

The south (rear) elevation of the main block is only partially exposed, as a two-story ell abuts the original rear elevation. The wall is laid in five-course American bond, as opposed to the Flemish bond of the façade. The southern slope of the gable roof features three dormers and a corbelled brick cornice. All of the windows on the rear are 6/6 with brick jack arches. Much of the brick on the western two bays of this rear elevation have been significantly re-worked or rebuilt.

The rear ell, built in two phases at a canted angle, is brick laid in seven-course American bond. It is covered with a gable roof, clad with asphalt shingles. The openings hold 6/6 windows with half-round trim.

The early 19<sup>th</sup> century smokehouse is a square-in-plan brick structure with a pyramidal roof. Louvered openings pierce the north and south walls, while the batten door is located on the east wall. The roof is clad with wood shingles and capped by a deteriorating wood finial. The brick is heavily painted on the exterior, obscuring the bonding pattern; the interior brick has been heavily and poorly repointed. The floor, roof rafters, and sheathing boards are all replacements.

### Interior Description:

The building was historically divided into two parts: the eastern half had a first floor commercial space and second floor residence; the western half was a side-passage-plan dwelling. The eastern half of the Rams Head Tavern was essentially gutted and re-configured with modern furnishings, though some remnants of its historic interiors survive. The western half of the building is more intact, in both plan and detail, retaining, for instance its first quarter of the 19th-century stair and historic mantel in the front parlor.

The eastern half of the building basically offers an open plan with a bar in the front room. The original brick side and rear walls of the building were retained in part and are exposed. The walls have large, segmental-arched openings cut into them with wood wainscoting. The rear wall of the main block was left in place, with its windows intact. The 6/6 windows feature bulls-eye corner block trim on the interior side and jack-arched brick lintels on the exterior side.

A rear winder stair leading from the front room to the basement and western half of the building is also partially intact and features square balusters, and a tapered newel with a beaded pyramidal cap. The basement, located under the western half of the building, is modern in style with a bar and seating for patrons. Access to the exterior is located on the north wall. The basement under the eastern half of the building is accessed from the rear of the front room, behind the original rear wall. The modern metal stair also provides access to the second story of this part of the building. The basement has been extensively altered, now serving as the kitchen for the tavern. The second story houses offices.

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The western half of the building features a side-passage plan with a front and rear parlor. The side passage features a straight-flight closed stringer stair and is embellished by a plaster-ceiling medallion. The floors are wood, laid the length of the hall and the walls and ceiling are plaster. The stair has a turned newel, square balusters, and a round hand railing. A closet under the stairs has an historic six-paneled door with corner block trim. The front parlor features an historic wood mantel with full columns supporting a frieze board and mantel shelf.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. AA-701

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**Significance dates** ca. 1831-1921 **Architect** Unknown

**Specific dates** 1831-1849 **Builder** Unknown

Evaluation for:

National Register  Maryland Register  not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The building at 31-33 West Street was constructed in the years between 1831 and 1849 as a single-family dwelling and commercial store. The property was used as primarily as rental property from the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> until the fourth quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Despite the turnover of tenants, the building has had only four owners. It was constructed for merchant John W. Whittington, remaining in his family from 1830 until 1921. It was then purchased by tailor Abraham Snyder, whose family sold it in 1972. The property documents the transition of West Street, a primary route into the state capital, from a mixed residential and commercial route in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries to a major commercial corridor in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Although it no longer maintains a residential component, the present configuration of the façade reflects the building’s historic mixed use.

### Site History

James Stoddert surveyed the property on which the Rams Head Tavern stands in 1718. Stoddert’s map indicates the three lots (59, 60, and 61) were owned by St. Anne’s Parish, and remained unimproved under their custody. According to a 1742 act of Assembly, the Parish was given permission to lease the lots for twenty-one years to “such persons as might be willing and desirous to receive such Lease of the Lots aforesaid, or some of them, and to Build on and otherwise improve the same.”<sup>1</sup> A second act of Assembly was granted in 1747 that extended the period of the lease to sixty-three years with an annual fee of four pounds sterling. This second act was needed, as the Parish had been unable to lease the property, because the twenty-one year lease was not considered profitable by prospective investors. With the provisions of the new act, the Parish successfully leased all three lots within months. Daniel Dulany leased lot 59, while lots 60 and 61 were leased to William Reynolds. The westernmost portion of lot 61, “whereon is standing a stone house, formerly the prison,” was leased to Thomas King.<sup>2</sup>

Reynolds, maintaining a tavern at 6 Church Circle, subleased portions of lot 61 to William Faris in 1761. This sublease extended 47 feet along West Street from the rear of the property historically associated with 6 Church

<sup>1</sup> Bernard Christian Steiner, ed. *Archives of Maryland, Volume XLII: Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland, Volume 20, 1740 to 1744.* (Baltimore, MD: Maryland Historical Society, 1923), p. 432.

<sup>2</sup> Vestry Minutes of St. Anne’s Parish, vol. 1, folio 295.

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Circle. Now designated as 21-27 West Street, the property extended southward to Cathedral Street. Reynolds leased the remaining sixty feet fronting West Street for forty-one years, beginning in 1769, to Samuel Chase. This lease included the property at 31-33 West Street, where the original portion of the Rams Head Tavern now stands. In 1772, Chase subleased this land to Allen Quynn. A cordwainer and former Mayor of Annapolis, Quynn owned several lots in Annapolis, particularly on West Street.

During the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the property at 31-33 West Street appears to have been improved by a building that was residential in nature. The building's use, in part, as a tavern or inn is largely based on the occupations of those persons subleasing the property. In 1789, as stated in deeds of conveyance for adjacent lots, Keziah Lindsay Murrow Clark occupied the property at 31-33 West Street.<sup>3</sup> Clark, three times a widow, was an innkeeper. A 1794 Chancery Court case for the adjoining lot formerly owned by Alexander Trueman mentioned that 31-33 West Street was leased to and occupied by Thomas Graham. Graham was a local shopkeeper, who maintained a tavern known as "Sign of the Green Tree." Graham's occupancy is supported by a March 27, 1794 advertisement in the *Maryland Gazette* that described the property as "adjacent to that of Trueman." These deeds and Chancery Court cases for adjacent property should be reexamined, as a second court dispute for the former property of Trueman indicates Graham continued to reside at 31-33 West Street in 1805, despite his death in 1795.<sup>4</sup>

Allen Quynn, who died in 1803, appears to have retained the primary sublease to the property, which was included in his estate. Ownership of the lease and use of the property for the period between 1803 and 1811 was restricted while Quynn's will was contested. As executor to Quynn's estate, son-in-law John Kilty renewed the lease for the property in Lot 61 with St. Anne's Parish in April 1811, ultimately purchasing the property. Once the contention regarding the estate was settled, the property continued to be subleased by the Quynn family, with John Golder obtaining the rights in 1812.

### Building History

By 1830, Alexander Randall had been appointed to convey Quynn's title to the property on West Street. Robert Welch of Ben purchased it on July 30, 1830 for \$122. He immediately sold the land to merchant John Washington Welsh Whittington, born in 1807. In 1831, Whittington was charged with a single improved lot in Annapolis, valued at \$400. In 1849, eighteen years later, Whittington was charged \$2,500 for this same lot. Thus, supported by extant architectural detailing, it appears that the building now at 31-33 West Street was erected in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, specifically in the years between 1831 and 1849. The form of the building, largely based on conjectural studies and deed records, suggests it was constructed with a dual purpose. The portion of the building at 31 West Street was commercial, with the residential section located at 33 West Street. The dwelling

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<sup>3</sup> Edward Papenfuse 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, p. 19.

<sup>4</sup> Papenfuse and McWilliams, p. 19.

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was supported by an irregularly placed two-story brick ell that was connected to the main block of the building by a hyphen. The rear of the commercial space was extended by a one-story brick ell that extended the length of the adjacent hyphen. A contemporary brick smokehouse was located in the southern corner of the property.

Whittington was assessed in 1860 with a single improved lot on West Street in addition to \$440 worth of furnishings, plates, and watches. Listed as 15-17 West Street in the 1880 census records, the building was home to John W. Whittington, his wife Matilda, daughters Anne E. and Matilda T., and son John S. The census indicated John W. operated a variety store, while John S. worked as a clerk. The 1896 tax assessments charged John S. Whittington with one lot (measuring 52 by 140) on West Street, improved by two brick dwellings (#19 and 21). The property with its subdivided improvement was valued at \$4,800. By 1899, Matilda Whittington had obtained title to the property, as indicated by the tax assessments. She was charged for \$4,248.50 for the property and \$457 for pictures, silver, books and furniture.

The 1900 census, listing the residential portion of the building as 21 West Street, records John S. Whittington as the head of the household. His mother Matilda and sister Anne continued to reside in the dwelling. Born in 1841, John S. was a clerk at the Court of Appeals in Annapolis, a position he eventually left in order to serve as court bailiff.

The 1903 *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps* show that the portion of the building denoted as 33 West Street continued to serve as a dwelling. The map also indicates the upper story of the commercial space at 31 West Street and the kitchen ell at 33 West Street were utilized as residential space. While the residential portion of the building continued to serve the Whittington family, the commercial space changed tenants numerous times following the January 1885 death of John W. Whittington. The 1913 *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps* indicate the space was occupied by a supply store. John S. died in 1919, devising his interest to his only niece, Renna Gassaway Caulk. Thus, members of the Whittington family no longer occupied the property, which was leased in 1920 to Sing Lee. Lee, a native of China, immigrated to the United States in 1886 and operated a laundry.

In July 1921, the building was sold for \$9,950 to Abraham Snyder. The lot, which measured 53 feet by 115 feet, was "improved by a brick store now occupied by A.H. Wilson at 31 West Street, a vacant brick dwelling at 33 West Street, and a brick store at 35 West Street occupied by Sing Lee."<sup>5</sup> The *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps* for 1921 indicate the building at 31 West Street was an auto supply store, which would have been operated by Andrew H. Wilson. Wilson began his trade as a harness maker, changing with the needs of the transportation industry to provide bicycle and automobile parts. The maps indicate the dwelling at 33 West Street had been renovated to serve as Lee's laundry, documenting the evolution of West Street from the residential/commercial route to a commercial corridor in the second quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At the center of the structure, a separate entry was created to allow residents access to the upper story and the rear ell that formerly was the

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<sup>5</sup> Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber WNW 41, Folio 295.

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kitchen. The maps also show that the commercial space at 35 West Street was not a part of this property, and was not used in 1921 as a laundry. Thus, the division of the building at 31-33 West Street, and its variety of uses presented a problem for numerical addressing.

Abraham Snyder was born in Russia about 1874. Having relocated to Annapolis in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Snyder lived and worked as a tailor at 78 Main Street. He leased the commercial space at 31 West Street to Vincent Denna, a fruit vendor, while Sing Lee maintained his laundry at 33 West Street. The kitchen ell continued to serve as a residential space, occupied by Lee as noted in the 1924 city directory. By 1929, Lee's laundry was forced to operate along side the competing Ideal Laundry, which occupied the space at 31 West Street. Abraham Snyder is listed in 1929 as the resident of 33 West Street, with William Schultz maintaining his confectionary shop at 33-1/2 West Street. The 1949 city directory lists the Circle Liquor Store at 31 West Street, the Snyder family at 33 West Street, and Johnny's Shoe Repair in the basement of the building. Coney Island Lunch was listed at 33-1/2 West Street. The building at 31 West Street was not listed separately in the 1954 city directory, which had the Mail-Me-Monday Bookkeeping Service, Annapolis Shoe Repair, Lady of Fatima Studio, and Mrs. Tashka Snyder as the occupants of 33 West Street. Again, 33-1/2 West Street was listed separately, occupied by Elma's Lunch.

Despite the death of Abraham Snyder in 1947, the family continued to offer the building for lease. The widowed Witaska Snyder, a Polish immigrant, transferred ownership in 1954 to her children. In 1961 and in 1965, 31 West Street was home to a beauty salon, with the interior of 33 West Street occupied by five businesses, including a shoe repair, accounting and bookkeeping firms, Lesco prefabricated homes, and an office equipment store. The space listed as 33-1/2 West Street was vacant.

The Snyder heirs sold the property in 1972 after fifty-one years of ownership. Charles M. Marsteller, Jr purchased it. The leasing of the commercial spaces continued under the tenure of Marsteller. The city directory records that in 1975 the space at 31 West Street was vacant, while six commercial tenants and six residential tenants occupied 33 West Street. Commercial tenants included The Ark (a craftsman shop), the Buttercup Tearoom, The Dove Restaurant, Holly and Ivy Antique Store, and Chesapeake Bay Boat Models. Marsteller occupied a portion of the building for his accounting firm. In 1982, Marsteller sold the building to the 33 West Limited Partnership. In 1992, the property, including the restaurant was sold to W and P Limited Liability Corporation, which was owned by William Murlhauser

By 1994, the building was renovated to provide additional restaurant space for the Rams Head Tavern, occupants since the early 1980s. Under the direction of Halpern Architects, the tavern expanded into the commercial space at 29 West Street. By the first part of 1995, the building was again under renovation. This work, under the direction of Lawson Design Company, expanded the growing tavern into the space at 27 West Street. The façade of 31-33 West Street was also renovated, removing the commercial openings at 33 West Street. In September 1995, the Fordham Brewing Company joined the Rams Head Tavern. The brewery

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included a massive Behr Plan System that required the interior of the space at 27-29 West Street to be substantially altered by the removal of interior walls. The interior work at 31 West Street also required the opening of several interior walls. A one-story addition was then constructed on the rear of 27-29 West Street to provide additional seating. The space at 33 West Street, with the exception of the basement at 33-1/2 West Street, is presently leased to a law office.

### Chain of Title:

- 1694: Lot 61 surveyed for Vestry of St. Anne's Parish  
Archives of Maryland XIX, Folio 110
- September 1, 1747: Vestry of St. Anne's Parish leased part of Lot 61 to William Reynolds for 63  
years
- 1769: William Reynolds to Samuel Chase  
Provincial Court Records  
Liber DD 4 Folio 502
- 1772: Samuel Chase to Allen Quynn  
Provincial Court Records  
Liber L.B. Folio 356
- 1812: John Quynn, heir of Allen Quynn, to John Golder, trustee of estate of Allen  
Quynn  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber WSG 2 Folio 97
- July 10, 1830: Alexander Randall, administrator for estate of Allen Quynn, to Robert Welch of  
Ben  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber WSG 15 Folio 379
- July 10, 1830: Robert Welch of Ben to John W. Whittington  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber WSG 15 Folio 380

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- July 12, 1921: Fidelity Trust Company, executor for John S. Whittington and Renna Gassaway  
Caulk (surviving heir) to Abraham Snyder  
Will Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber OBD 2 Folio 258  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber WNW 41 Folio 295
- January 17, 1947: Abraham Snyder devised to wife, Witaska Snyder  
Will Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber RGP 2 Folio 502
- September 30, 1954: Witaska Snyder, widow, to Morris Snyder, Samuel Snyder, and Emanuel Snyder  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber JHH 871 Folio 550
- April 13, 1972: Morris Snyder, Samuel Snyder, and Emanuel Snyder to Charles M. Marsteller, Jr.  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber MSH 2483 Folio 482
- April 13, 1982: Morris Snyder, Samuel Snyder, and Emanuel Snyder to Charles M. Marsteller, Jr.  
Confirmatory Deed  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber WGL 3492 Folio 475
- September 15, 1977: Charles M. Marsteller, Jr. to A. Weems McFadden, Shirley R. McFadden, and  
Susan Selby McFadden  
Subdivision of property (106 Cathedral Avenue)  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber WGL 3004 Folio 605
- April 16, 1982: Charles M. Marsteller, Jr. to 33 West Limited Partnership  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber 3493 Folio 530
- December 17, 1992: 33 West Limited Partnership to W & P Limited Liability Corporation  
Land Records of Anne Arundel County  
Liber 5870 Folio 49

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Rams Head Tavern, 31-33 West Street, Annapolis  
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## HISTORIC CONTEXT:

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1815-1870)  
Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)  
Modern Period (1930-present)

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning  
Commerce

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Town

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): COMMERCE/TRADE/Specialty Store  
DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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AA-701

Di Leo, Joseph. "New in-town brewery will open this month," *The Publick Enterprise*. August, 1995, p. 5.

Historic Annapolis, Inc. Vertical building files: 27-33 West Street.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of project area	<u>less than one acre</u>	
Acreage surveyed	<u>less than one acre</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Annapolis, MD</u>	Quadrangle scale <u>1:24,000</u>

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The building at 31-33 West Street has been associated with Parcel 400, Grid 15 on Map 4Z since its construction in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	L. Trieschmann and K. Williams, Architectural Historians
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc.
street & number	5420 Western Avenue
city or town	Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Pllace  
Crownsville, MD 21032  
410-514-7600

AA-701

31-33 West Street (Commercial Building)  
Annapolis  
Anne Arundel County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-267

HABS  
MD  
2 ANNA  
H-2

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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46-

31-33 West Street (Commercial Building)  
Annapolis  
Anne Arundel County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-267

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer      1964

MD-267-1 MAIN (NORTH) ELEVATION



HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

HABS No. MD-267-1

HABS

pid,

2-4-11-4

46-1

AA-701

AA-701 HABS  
MD.  
2-ANNA  
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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE MARYLAND	COUNTY ANNE ARUNDEL	TOWN OR VICINITY ANNAPOLIS
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) 31-33 West Street (Commercial Building)		HABS NO. MD-267
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) early 19th century	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) A nineteenth century building, now altered for commercial uses, which retains many original architectural details.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick laid in Flemish bond.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) <u>Two and one-half stories, 6 bay front, about 40' in frontage, originally rectangular.</u> See field records for floor plans.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Dormer windows, large end chimneys centered on gables, entrance doorway on right has ornamental brackets on panelled pilaster strips which support a plain cornice & three light rectangular transom, large store windows dating from late nineteenth or early twentieth century.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) <u>The door and window trim are of three variations of corner block trim. Many doors retain their original Carpenter or Carpenter-type rim locks and brass knobs, rosettes, escutcheons and cast-iron butt hinges. The three surviving mantels of the western half of the structure are all similar, with tapered pilasters and boldly projecting shelf supported by moldings. The mantel in the room above the shop in the eastern half of the building has free standing columns. The mantel of the second story room in the rear wing is slate, painted as faux-marbre, of a simple Greek Revival design.</u>		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Commercial		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE <u>The western half of the building was originally a residence. It is essentially three bays wide, with a side hall, and two rooms deep. The eastern half of the building was originally a shop at ground level (above a deep cellar) with residence above.</u>		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Eleni Silverman, HABS Historian from reports by Harley J. McKee (8/10/64) and James Wollon (4/14/72).		DATE 3/21/84



AA-701

Building as it was  
in (approx.)  
1825

THE ARK

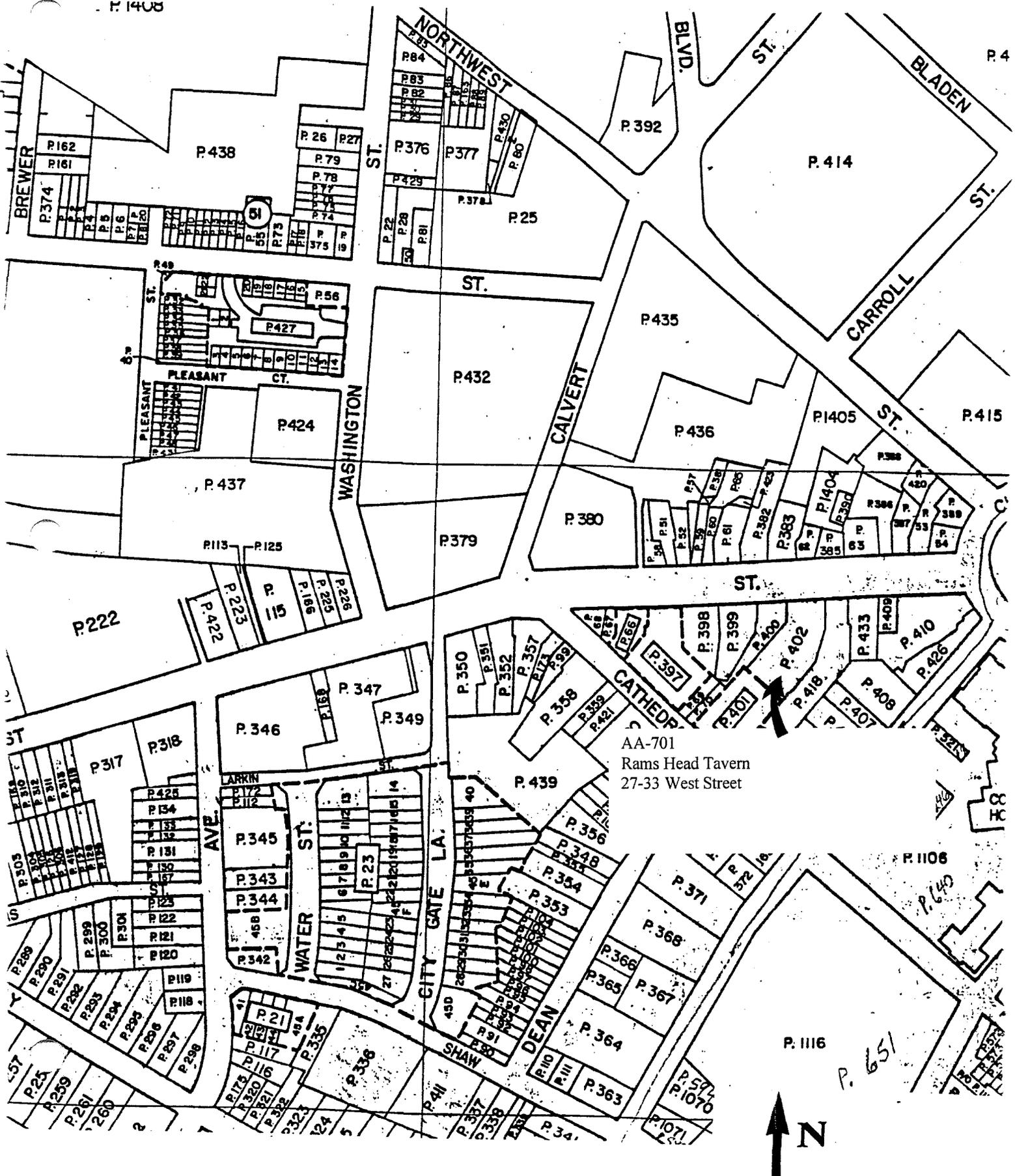
33 West Street

Phone No. 263-8700

West Street under the New York City Landmarks Commission

MAP OF ANNAPOLIS, No.4-6  
Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation  
1967; Revised 1991  
Scale 1' = 200'

P. 1408



AA-701  
Rams Head Tavern  
27-33 West Street





AA-701

33 WEST STREET

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

4/2000

MD SHPO

NW ELEVATION LOOKING SE

1 OF 19



AA-701

33 WEST STREET

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

4/2000

MD SHPO

NORTH CORNER, LOOKING SOUTH

2 OF 19



RAMS HEAD

53

FINE FOOD  
& DRINK

RAMS

AA-701

33 WEST STREET

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

4/2000

MD SHPO

NW ELEVATION LOOKING EAST

3 OF 19



AA-701

33 WEST STREET

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

4/2000

MD SITPO

NW ELEVATION, ADDITION, LOOKING SW  
(29 WEST STREET)

4 OF 19



FORDHAM  
BUILDING & CONTRACT

AA-701

33 WEST STREET

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

4/2000

MD SHPO

NW ELEVATION, ADDITION II, LOOKING SOUTH  
(27 WEST STREET)

5 OF 19



AA-701

33 WEST STREET

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

4/2000

MD SAPO

NE ELEVATION, ADDITION II, LOOKING SOUTH  
(27 WEST STREET)

6 OF 19



AA-701

RAMS HEAD TAVERN

33 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

REAR ELL, LOOKING EAST

7 OF 19



AA-701

RAMS HEAD TAVERN

33 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD STPO

REAR ELL, LOOKING NE

8 OF 19



AA-701  
33 WEST STREET  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES

4/2000

MD SHPO

SE ELEVATION, ADDITION II LOOKING NORTH  
(27 WEST STREET)

9 OF 19



AA-701

RAMS HEAD TAVERN  
33 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS  
TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

FIRST FLOOR, NE ROOM OF MAIN BLOCK  
LOOKING EAST (31 WEST STREET)

10 OF 19



AA-701

RAMS HEAD TAVERN

33 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

FIRST FLOOR, LOOKING SW

(LOOKING TO 31 WEST STREET)

11 OF 19



AA-701

RAMS HEAD TAVERN

33 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

REAR WALL OF MAIN BLOCK. LOOKING NORTH  
(31 WEST STREET)

12 OF 19



AA-701

RAMS HEAD TAVERN

33 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

STAIR, NE ROOM, LOOKING NORTH TO BASEMENT  
(33 WEST STREET)

13 OF 19



AA-701

RAMS HEAD TAVERN

33 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

5/2000

M.P. SHPO

BASEMENT, LOOKING WEST  
(33 WEST STREET)

14 OF 19



AA-701

RAMS HEAD TAVERN

33 WEST ST, ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SITPO

STAIR HALL, FIRST FLOOR, LOOKING NORTH  
(33 WEST STREET)

15 OF 19



AA-701

RAMS HEAD TAVERN

33 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

STAIR HALL, FIRST FLOOR, LOOKING SE  
(33 WEST STREET)

16 OF 19



AA-701

RAMS HEAD TAVERN

33 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

NW ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, LOOKING SW  
(33 WEST STREET)

17 OF 19



AA-701

RAMS HEAD TAVERN

33 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

INTERIOR ADDITION, LOOKING NE  
(29 WEST STREET)

18 OF 19



AA-701

RAMS HEAD TAVERN

33 WEST ST., ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

SMOKEHOUSE, LOOKING NW

19 OF 19

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

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET  
 Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: <b>AA 701</b>
NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:
UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing
U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:
PRESENT FORMAL NAME:
ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:
PRESENT USE: Commercial (SF Res @ Rear)
ORIGINAL USE: Residential
ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:
PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent ( ) Good ( ) Fair (x) Poor: ( )
THEME:
STYLE: Georgian Altered (Vic)
DATE BUILT: Pre-Revolution c 1761

COUNTY: Anne Arundel
TOWN: Annapolis
LOCATION: 31-33 West St.
COMMON NAME:
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: RES Map 30 Par 635
OWNER: Marsteller Charles M Jr
ADDRESS: Love Point Stevensville MD 21666
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes (x) No ( ) Restricted ( )
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: HABS 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: Flemish Other:
- Roof Structure
  - Truss: Wood (x) Iron ( ) Steel ( ) Concrete ( )
  - Other:
- Roof Covering: Slate ( ) Wood Shingle ( ) Asphalt Shingle ( ) Sheet Metal (x)  
 Built Up ( ) Rolled ( ) Tile ( ) Other:
- Engineering Structure:
- Other:

Appendages: Porches ( ) Towers ( ) Cupolas ( ) Dormers (x) 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: 2½

Number of Bays: 6 Entrance Location: 2nd + 4th bays from L

Approximate Dimensions: 42 x 30 + rear ell

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-701

Gabled dormers with returns; massive end wall chimneys, row of six 6/6 original windows at second floor, first floor altered at left c1900 for shopfront, which has bracketed cornice of good design, central entrance altered by addition of good Italianate hood with heavy consoles, granite stairs; splayed brick lintels at all original windows.

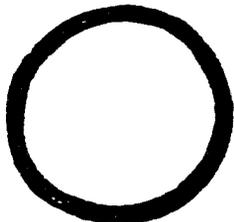
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Altered Georgian residential pair that retains importance due to care taken in design of storefront and entrance, contributes 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

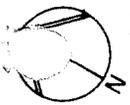
DATE RECORDED:

Aug. 1983

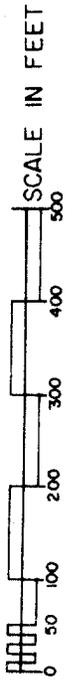
Form 10-445  
(5/62)

1. STATE Annapolis, Maryland		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY	
COUNTY		2. NAME	
TOWN VICINITY		DATE OR PERIOD Pre-Revolutionary	
STREET NO. 31 - 33 West Street		STYLE Georgian - Colonial	
ORIGINAL OWNER		ARCHITECT	
ORIGINAL USE residence		BUILDER	
PRESENT OWNER		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
PRESENT USE commercial-office equip.			
WALL CONSTRUCTION brick			
NO. OF STORIES two plus dormer attic			
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		OPEN TO PUBLIC yes	
<p>A fine colonial house of brick with two massive end chimneys and two triangular attic dormers (6/6) with original sash and windows. 2nd storey - 6 windows (6/6) perhaps original sash (Had shutters at one time) - windows have splayed brick lintels. 1st floor - two stores and 2nd storey entrance door - all of Victorian period - store cornices are good Victorian type. Building looks in good shape and is building <u>most</u> worth preserving on south side of West Street (much like No. 26-28, 30, and 50 on n. side of Street)</p>			
			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE		Endangered Interior Exterior 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	
HABS List		William D. Morgan Columbia University New York City	
		DATE OF RECORD June 21, 1967	

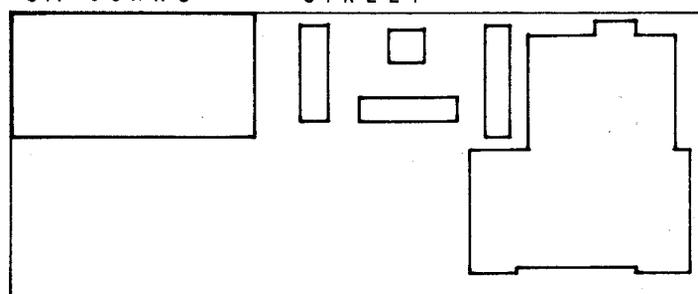
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



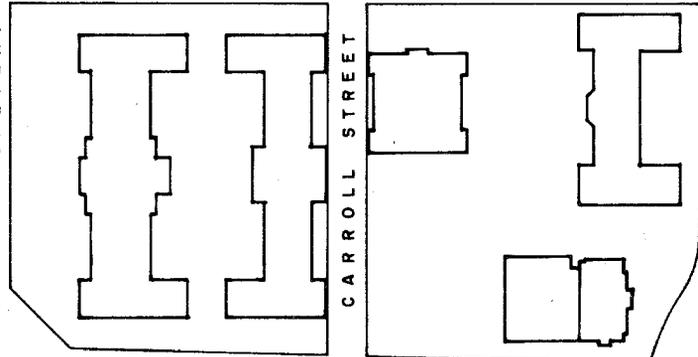
AA 701  
ANNAPOLIS HIST. DIST.



ST. JOHN'S STREET



BLADEN STREET

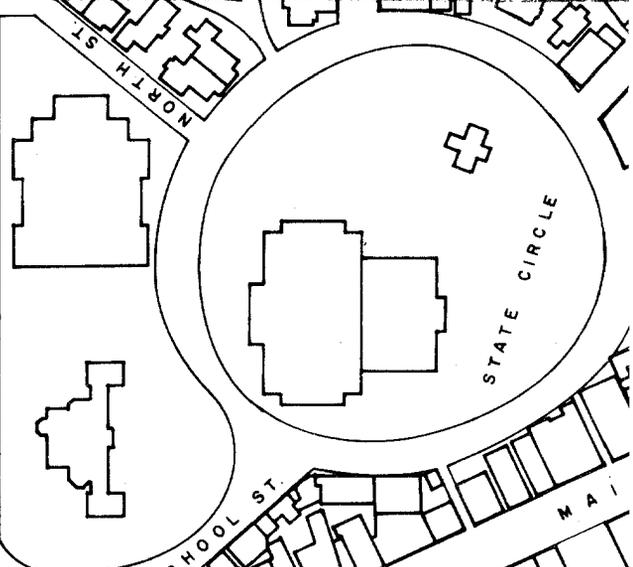


NORTHWEST STREET



CATHEDRAL STREET

COLLEGE

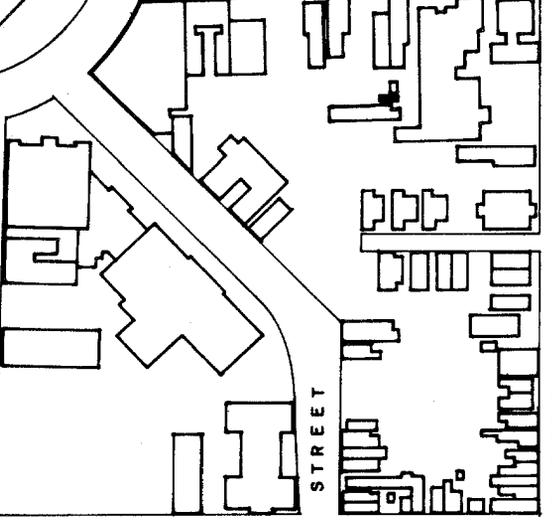


STATE CIRCLE

CHURCH CIRCLE

SCHOOL ST.

DUKE



STREET

STREET

STREET

WASHINGTON

CLAY STREET

STREET

MARK ST.

WATER ST.

CITY GATE LANE

SHAW DEAN STREET

ST.

SHAW

SOUTH

STREET

CHARLES

STREET

ACTON



33-37½ West

AA 701

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Russell Wright July, 1982

Maryland Historical Trust,

Annapolis, Maryland

nw Elevation/camera facing ye

N 11