

Capsule Summary

Survey Number # AA 819

Davis House  
3214 Langston Avenue  
Highland Beach, Maryland

c. 1897

Private

The Davis House is a colonial style, two storey cottage in Highland Beach, Maryland. The entire resort community was conceived to be a summer retreat for prominent black Americans in the later part of the nineteenth century. Building activity in the town took place within a ten year period which established an organizing design theme within the community. The colonial theme is one of the architectural elements of this town and the Davis house is one of the earliest examples of this form.

The existence of black town in a rural environment which exhibits such a high level of architectural quality is rare. The Davis house contributes to the overall design of the town with respect to its proximity to other houses within the community and the socio-spatial elements of planning in a small black town.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AA 819

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Davis House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3214 Langston Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Highland Beach

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Annapolis 1

STATE

Maryland

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Davis Jr, Arthur P.  
Davis, Delores J.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

7502 Eastern Ave. NW

CITY, TOWN

Washington DC

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
20012

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, INDEX # 2 411 03108400  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. R 57 15 0012

Liber #: 2783  
Folio #: 324

STREET & NUMBER

Anne Arundel County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis, MD

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

AA-819

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

3214 Langston

This cottage is a colonial, 2 x 2 bay house with an extended, enclosed porch. It retains into clapboard siding and trim and the double hung 4 over 4 light windows are similar in pattern to other windows in the area. The aluminum screened porch and the gutters are new, but there might have been are original porch on the site.

The Davis house is located in the Highland Beach Community in the block bordered by Bay Avenue in the north, Langston Avenue towards the east, Douglass Avenue in the south and Bruce Avenue towards the west. The east elevation is the "front" of the house and is oriented towards the Chesapeake Bay. The topography is comparatively high on this lot although the sloping pattern in this community is generally towards the Chesapeake Bay and the Black Walnut Creek on the north and Oystic Creek towards the southern perimeter. Vegetation is dense and large trees of Ash, Poplar, Oak and Maple substantially complement the site.

The gabled roof colonial style cottage is essentially a rectangular plan with a shed extension on the western elevation. The low pier foundation is constructed of smooth stone masonry. On the eastern elevation, the three bay wide facade is complemented with an enclosed ten bay porch. The porch is screened with wooden supports. The porch extends around the house towards the north elevation and wraps around this side view asymmetrically. The entrance to the porch is protected by an aluminum door with a single pane window and scalloped trim. The porch is covered with a shed roof which is supported by corner posts. On the second storey of the east elevation, two sash type windows with six over six lights are centered on the wall. The finish on this view is constructed of shingle siding which is trimmed with painted vertical boards.

The south elevation is finished with weatherboard siding. The only other architectural features on this facade are three symmetrically placed windows - two on the first storey and one set of twin window treatments on the second storey.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      c. 1897                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      unknown

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

see "Highland Beach Settlement"

The Davis House is one of the landmark houses in this community. It was constructed in 1897 although the exact date can not be verified. It is considered to be an example of vernacular architecture in this community and was occupied by contemporaries of Frederick Douglass.

The Highland Beach Settlement is a private resort/summer community which was planned for and designed by prominent people in African-American history. It is a surviving example of town planning and may be one of the oldest extant communities of this quality in the mid-atlantic region. All of the properties in Highland Beach were originally owned by Charles R. Douglass in 1894. The Davis' purchased the property in the late 1970s from the descendants of original settlers in the community.

The Davis cottage is another of the several unique examples of black town planning that are located in this community. Highland Beach is a planned community and the unself conscious design quality of the individual structures in this scheme are important elements, worthy of preservation. This house in particular, articulates the influence of colonial design elements on the builders of this community. It therefore contributes to the functional development of the town and the socio-spatial conception of design by blacks in an era of segregation and racial hostility.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

see "Highland Beach Settlement"

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Lot 3 Block 4, Highland Beach

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Barbara C. Turner

April 1982

ORGANIZATION

Center for Built Environment Research

DATE

301-444-3225

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Morgan State University

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore, MD

STATE

21039

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

GW 6 35  
10/27/19

Charles R. Douglass (Wife Laura)

To

Eula Ross Grey

To

GTC1572 347  
6/20/62

C. Grey Hurley, Grandville W. & Arthur P. Davis  
Clarice W. Davis

To

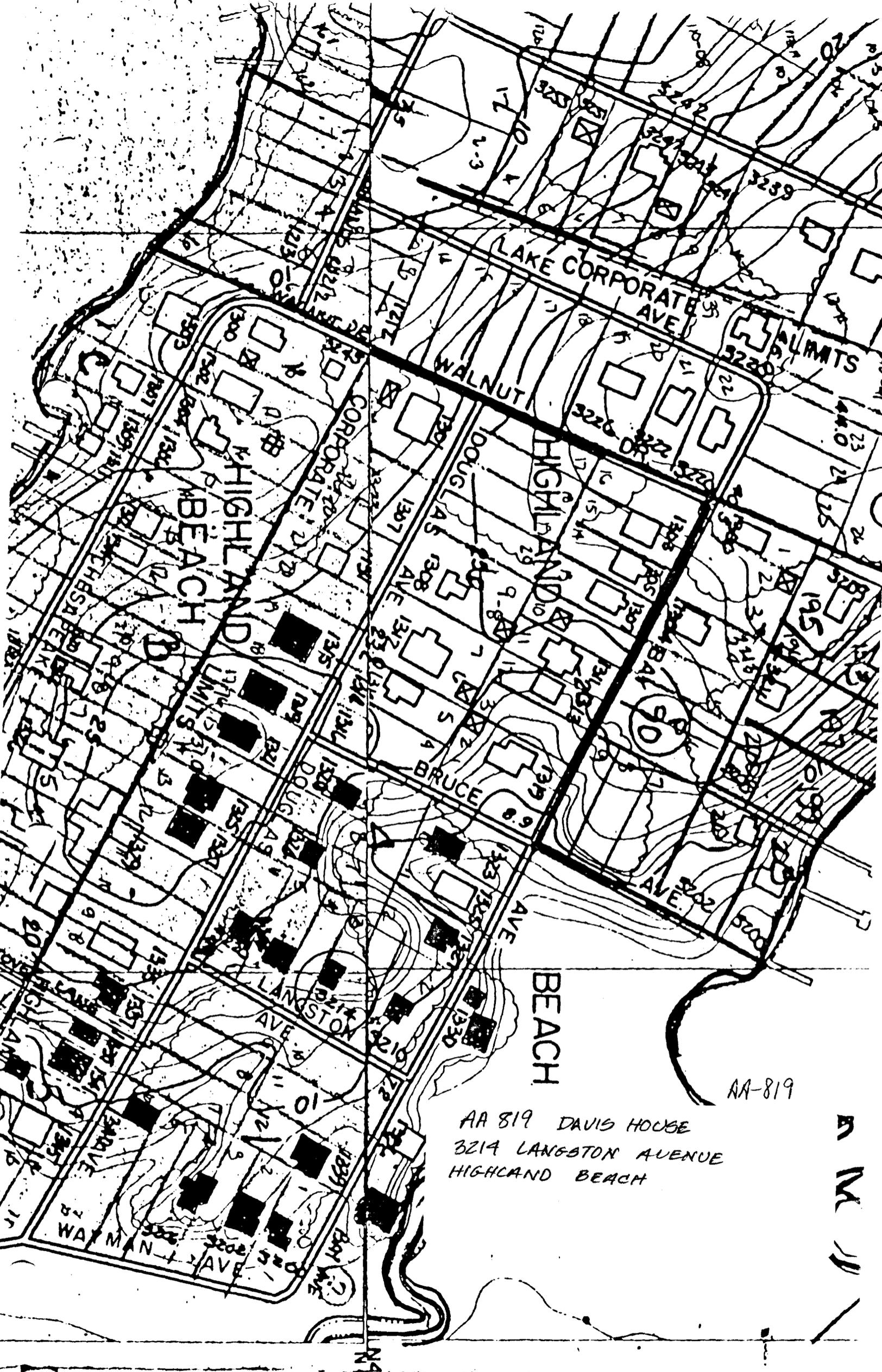
L 2783 324  
8/19/75

Arthur P. Davis Sr. & Clarice W.

To

2783 - 324

Arthur P. Davis Jr. (Wife Delores L.)



BEACH

AA-819

AA 819 DAVIS HOUSE  
3214 LANGSTON AVENUE  
HIGHLAND BEACH

AM



AA 819 Davis House  
3214 Langston Avenue  
Highland Beach, Maryland  
General View  
Fern Eisner, Photographer  
March, 1983