

CAPSULE SUMMARY

Holmes House  
1321 Douglass Avenue  
Highland Beach, Maryland

c. 1920

Private Residence

The Holmes House is a large, two storey gable roofed cottage in the historically black town of Highland Beach. The house has an extensive enclosed porch which has been articulated by a somewhat complex pattern of stickwork supportive and decorative elements. The house is a striking example of the quality of architectural design and planning that was exhibited in this community.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Holmes House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1321 Douglass Avenue

1

CITY, TOWN

Highland Beach,

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Anne Arundel County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

\_\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_\_BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

\_\_\_SITE

\_\_\_OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

\_\_\_PUBLIC

PRIVATE

\_\_\_BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_NO

PRESENT USE

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_\_PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Theresa Holmes

Telephone #: 268-1899

STREET & NUMBER

1345 T St. NW Washington, DC

20009

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Land Records Room

Liber #: OBD 2

Folio #: 373

STREET & NUMBER

Anne Arundel County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_FEDERAL \_\_\_STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

AA-823

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

## CONDITION

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Holmes House is a large, two storey frame dwelling. It has a gable roof and an enclosed porch which extends around the house and exhibits the crossed, diagonal, stick railing which is popular in this community. The central portion of the house has a simplistic facade which is articulated by the multiple geometric patterning of the porch enclosure.

Highland Beach is located approximately ten miles south of Annapolis on the Chesapeake Bay. The Holmes house is situated on a block which is bounded by Douglass Avenue on the north, Wilders Avenue to the east, the Corporate Limits of Highland bBeach to the south and Walnut Drive on the west. The topography slopes towards the Chesapeake Bay and is supportive of dense vegetation. The beach is within close proximity to the community but the developed area exhibits a woddland setting.

The house has been constructed on a pirt foundation which has not been enclosed on this property. The northern view or front of the house exhibits an enclosed porch with stich style railing and geometrically configured patterns of rectangles on the screened wall. The facade is three bays wide and is finished with weather board. The windows are large, double hung with multiple lights over a single pane on the first florr. The gable end of the northern view second floor exhibits a three paned window on the facade.

The eastern view of this house is the most articulate. It exhibits an enclosed porch which extends the length of the facade. The geometric pattern of stick work on the screening is more complex than in similar houses in the community and the mixture of diagonal, horizontal, and vertical lines contributes to the scaling down of the house which has such massive proportions. A large dormer with a shed roof extends from the slope of the gable roof. It supports four windows which are double hung and symmetrically placed on the facade.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
REHISTORIC	<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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES                      c. 1920                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      Unknown

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Highland Beach, Maryland is a historic black town that was founded by the son of Frederick Douglass. The town was conceived by Haley R. Douglass in the late nineteenth century to be a resort community for prominent blacks. Highland Beach is a unique existing reminder of town planning and architectural history as it relates to vernacular and high style design as exhibited by black people. Most of the architecture in Highland Beach is located on the original sites and building expansions were performed within a ten to fifteen year time frame. This provides us with a concise history of design, space planning, and architecture in a homogeneous, extant community.

All of the cottages that were constructed prior to 1930 are important elements related to town planning and design. It is important that these houses retain their originality in terms of plan design, lot orientation, interior decoration, and architectural aesthetics in order to preserve the concept of space and the dynamics of community development in this historic black town.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

(Please see "Highland Beach Settlement" Survey Form).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

Block 15, Section 5, Highland Beach

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Barbara Collins Turner

ORGANIZATION

Morgan State University

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Center for Built Environment Studies

TELEPHONE

444 3225

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore, Maryland

STATE

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

Tally R. Holmes 15 (5)

AA-823

1321 Douglass

Charles R. Douglass

To (WILL) 1920

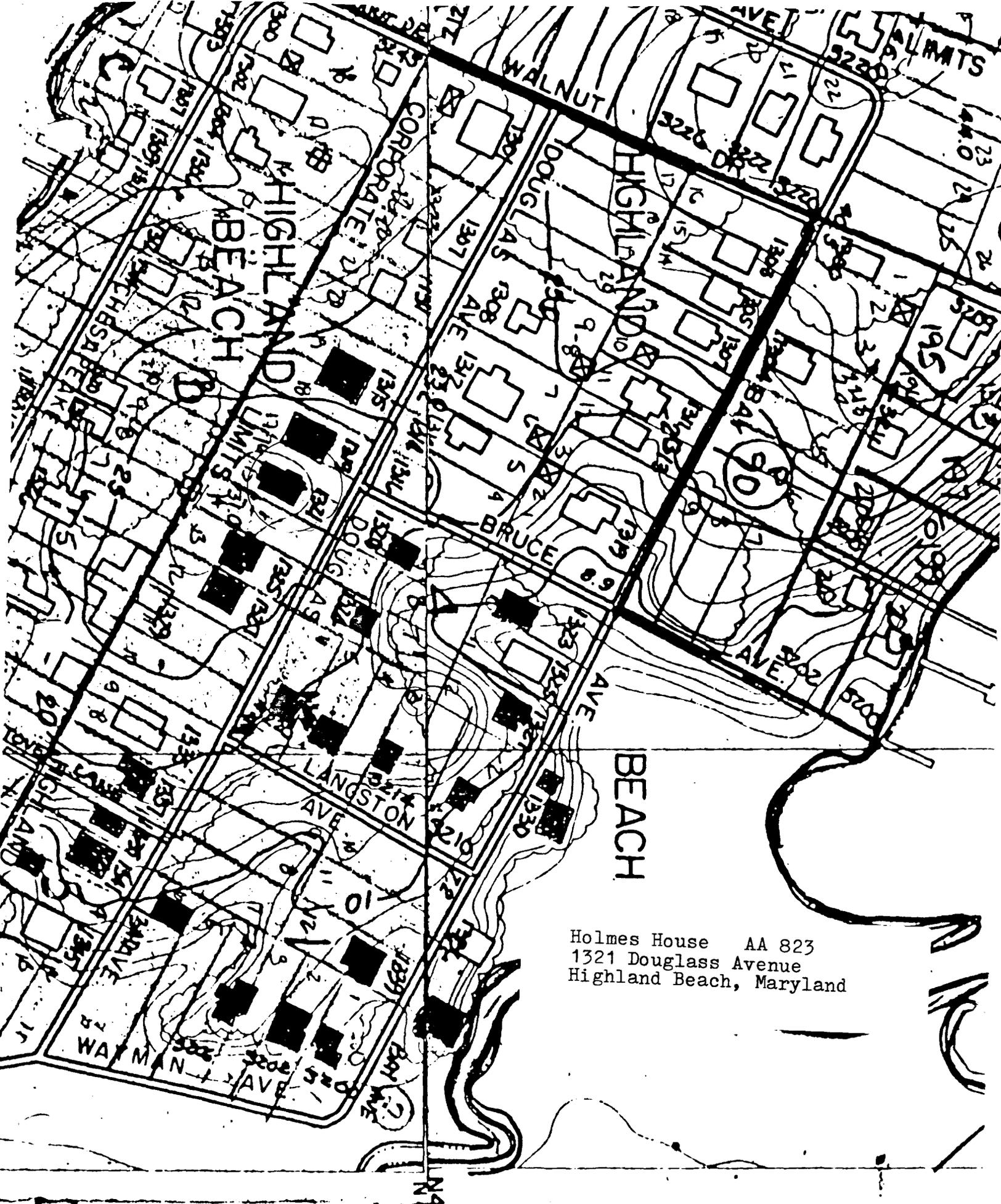
Haley G. Douglass & Evelyn (Wife)

To 4/18/38 OBD 2 373

John Washington

\$500. To 7/1/38 L 184 F 409

Tally R. Holmes



BEACH

Holmes House AA 823  
1321 Douglass Avenue  
Highland Beach, Maryland



Holmes House                    AA 823  
1321 Douglass Avenue  
Highland Beach, Maryland  
South Elevation

Fern Eisner, Photographer  
March, 1982



AA 823

Holmes House  
1321 Douglass Avenue  
Highland Beach, Maryland  
General View

Fern Eisner, Photographer  
March, 1982