

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-1032

406 Virginia Avenue

East Towson, Baltimore County

Circa 1890

Private

The Queen Anne-style house, constructed circa 1890, is located at 406 Virginia Avenue in East Towson. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

The imposing dwelling fronts close to the road with a large holly tree at the front. Rising two-and-a-half stories in height, the wood frame dwelling is set on a random rubble stone foundation. The house, constructed circa 1890, has been reclad with vinyl German siding, but retains the varying square butt and saw tooth wood shingles in the gable ends. The inset two-bay wide porch that is supported by square wood posts dominates the façade of the dwelling. Two 2/2 windows and a single-leaf panel-and-light wood door with a two-light transom pierce the first story of the dwelling. The second story of the façade is also pierced with two 2/2 windows. Further defining the decoratively shingled gable end is a round-arched 2/2 window. A central interior brick chimney rises above the front-gabled roof that is clad with asphalt shingles. To the rear of the house, there is a one-story, two-bay wide wood frame garage.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 1032

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other

2. Location

street and number 406 Virginia Avenue __ not for publication

city, town Baltimore __ vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Laura L. Jones

street and number 406 Virginia Avenue telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21286

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 5701 folio 428

city, town Towson tax map 70A tax parcel 542 tax ID number 910450260

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count		
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____	_____ structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	_____	_____ Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				1	

7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 1032

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

Located at 406 Virginia Avenue in East Towson, the imposing Queen Anne-style dwelling fronts close to the road with a large holly tree at the front. Rising two-and-a-half stories in height, the wood frame dwelling is set on a random rubble stone foundation. The house, constructed circa 1890, has been reclad with vinyl German siding, but retains the varying square butt and saw tooth wood shingles in the gable ends. The inset two-bay wide porch that is supported by square wood posts dominates the façade of the dwelling. Two 2/2 windows and a single-leaf panel-and-light wood door with a two-light transom pierce the first story of the dwelling. The second story of the façade is also pierced with two 2/2 windows. Further defining the decoratively shingled gable end is a round-arched 2/2 window. A central interior brick chimney rises above the front-gabled roof that is clad with asphalt shingles.

To the rear of the house, there is a one-story, two-bay wide wood frame garage. Clad with grooved plywood, it features a front gable roof and two roll-up metal-paneled doors.

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8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 1032

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input 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 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:

Specific dates 1890 ca. **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1890 ca.

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Queen Anne-style house, constructed circa 1890, is located at 406 Virginia Avenue in East Towson. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 1032

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Towson Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The house is located at 406 Virginia Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. Historically, it has been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 542 since its construction circa 1890.

11. Form Prepared by

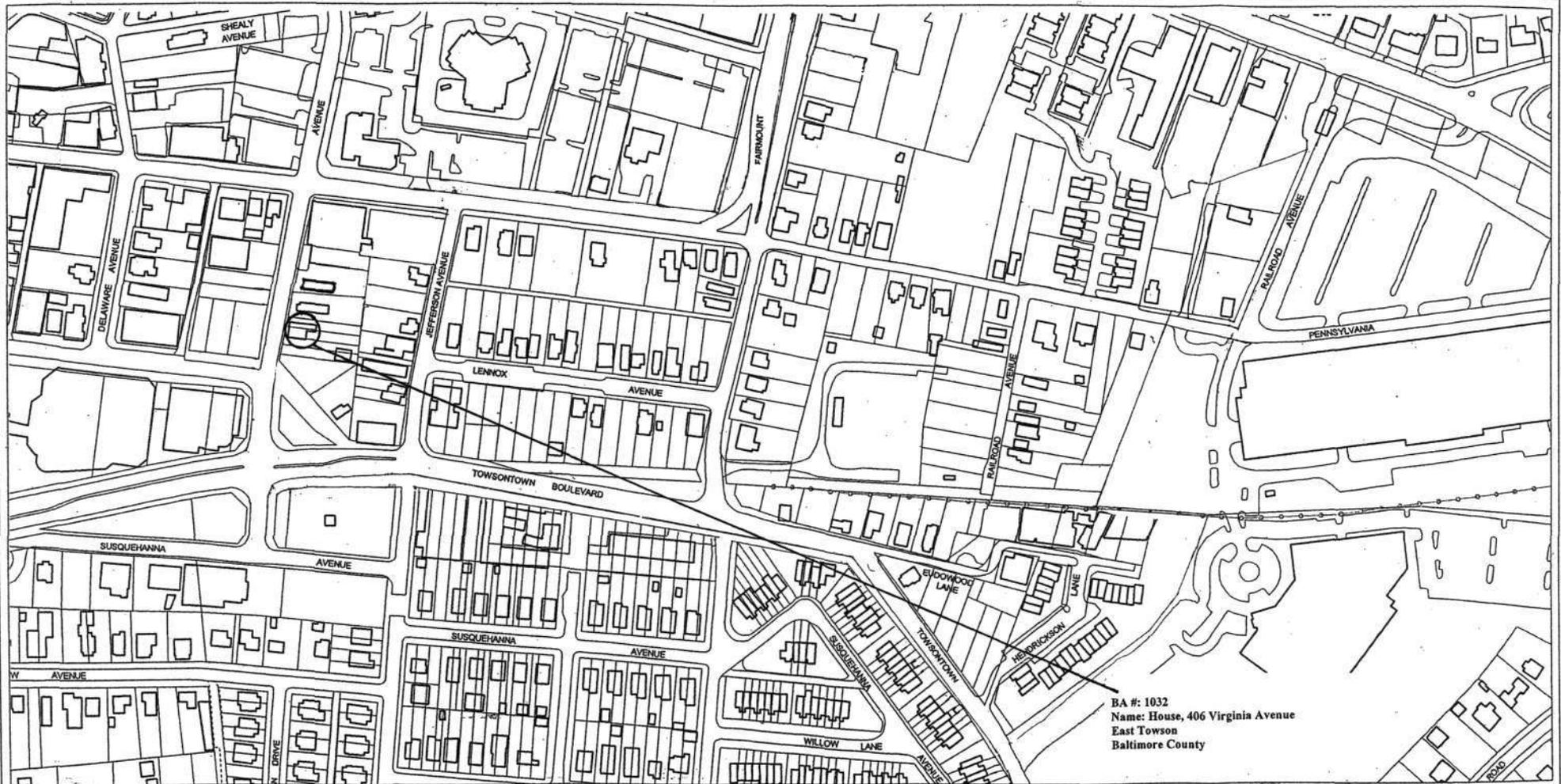
name/title	R. Weidlich and K. Baynard, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	November 19, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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 Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

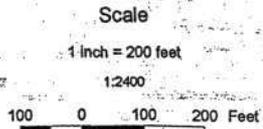
East Towson: Planimetric Data



BA #: 1032
 Name: House, 406 Virginia Avenue
 East Towson
 Baltimore County



Prepared by:
 Baltimore County Office of Planning
 401 Bosley Avenue
 Towson, Maryland 21204
 June, 2001



Legend

- Study Area Boundary
- Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Paved Parking / Driveways
- Hydrographic Features
- Buildings
- Vegetation

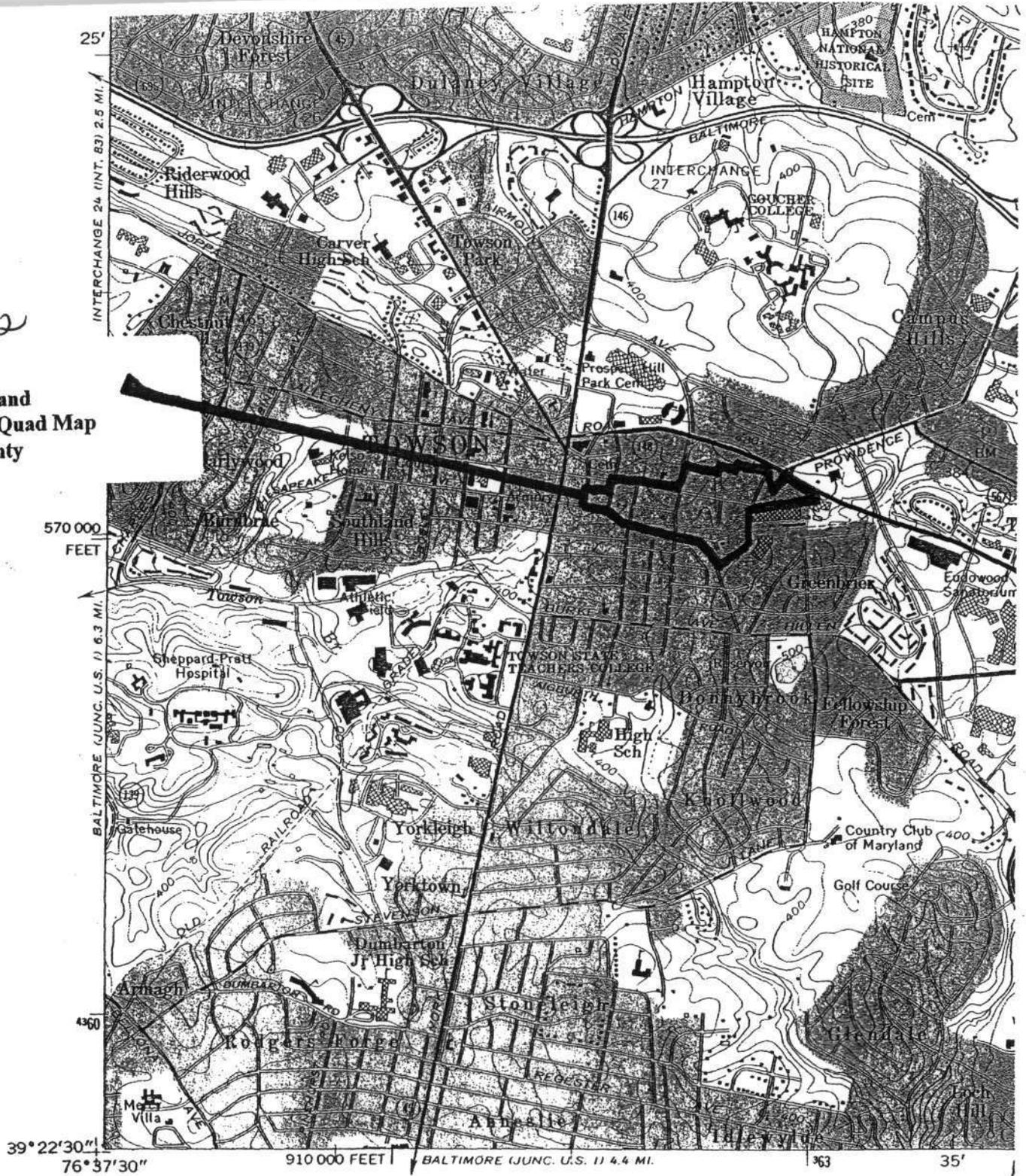
Data Sources:
 Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
 Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
 Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)

Coordinate System:
 Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum
 Elevations in Feet: NAVD88 Vertical Datum

Date of Data Capture: March 1996
 Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'

BA-1032

East Towson
Towson, Maryland
Towson USGS Quad Map
Baltimore County



(BALTIMORE WEST)
5652 (SW)

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland
Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

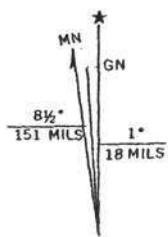
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not
field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA-1032

HOUSE, 406 VIRGINIA AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

SOUTHWEST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING NORTHEAST

1 of 3

TRACERIES, 10/2001



BA - 103Z

HOUSE, 406 VIRGINIA AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD SHPD

NORTHWEST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST

2 of 3

TRACERIES, 10/2001



BA-1032

HOUSE, 406 VIRGINIA AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

SOUTHEAST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST

383

TRALERIES, 10/2001

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Jones House I

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

406 Virginia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Tows on

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 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

Louise & Eugene Jones, Jr.Telephone #: 823-7778

STREET & NUMBER

406 Virginia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Tows on

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.County Courts Bldg.Liber #: 1400Folio #: 269

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

BA-1032 - 406 Virginia

1908

This house was built in 1908 for Robert and Amelia Jones. It consists of a side stair hall and parlor, followed by a kitchen. A first-floor porch is inset under the second story. The house retains its original woodwork.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

406 Virginia

Robert and Amelia Jones built this two-story frame house in 1908. Its plan consists of a stairhall on the north, parlor on the south, and kitchen across the rear. The second story projects over the front porch, and is supported by simple square posts. The porch is balustraded. The front door is located to the north of the facade. Two 2/2 sash windows light the parlor. The projecting second floor is lit by two windows, and one window lights each room on each floor along the south side.

The main gable faces the street. It is lit by an arched 2/2 sash window and sheathed in sawtooth and square wooden shingles. A small cross-gable to the south contains a similar window and shingles. The rest of the house is covered with original German clapboards. The stone cellar has an exterior entrance on the east and an interior entrance under the main stair.

The exterior architraves consist of narrow beaded boards. The interior architraves are composed of squared edges flanking a gentle central curve, end in concentric-circled corner blocks. The stair has a large newel post followed by turned balusters. A fireplace is located on the east wall of the parlor. Molded pilasters end in corner blocks. The shallow molding across the main mantelpiece face is marked by indentations and a central pointed bead.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house was built in 1908 by Amelia and Robert Jones. Amelia and son Eugene are the present owners of this house. The Jones family have resided in E. Towson for well over seventy-five years.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This house was built in 1895 by Willis and his wife
Loretta. Willis and his son are the present owners.
The house is a two-story brick house. The family has resided in
it for well over seventy-five years.

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marcus Pollack; M. Stinson, architect

ORGANIZATION

Committee to Save East Towson

DATE

6/30/77

STREET & NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Avenue

TELEPHONE

823-8870

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

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



BA-1032
Jones House I
406 Virginia Ave.
Towson, Md.
west

Merry Stinson
1977