

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-1047

312 East Pennsylvania Avenue

East Towson, Baltimore County

Circa 1900

Private

The dwelling at 312 East Pennsylvania Avenue was constructed between 1905 and 1906 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. 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.

The Queen Anne-style dwelling is located on a grassy lot with a large parking lot to its east. Set on a random rubble-stone foundation, the wood frame dwelling, now converted to offices, has been re clad with vinyl German siding. Queen Anne-style detailing is evident in the irregular façade, canted second-story window bay, and wrap-around front porch with turned posts and balusters. The first story features two replacement, single-leaf, metal-paneled doors with leaded lights. These door openings are not original to the dwelling. They are set beside a tripartite vinyl replacement window that consists of a twelve-light fixed center window and flanking 4/4 windows. Set back from the projecting gable bay is a single-leaf, wood-paneled door with a stained and leaded glass Queen Anne-style light. At the second story, set directly on the hipped roof of the porch, is a three-sided canted window bay holding two 4/4 and one 6/6 vinyl replacement windows. A single 6/6 vinyl replacement window is set above the Queen Anne-style door. The upper half story is pierced by a round-arched 2/2 window.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 1047

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other

2. Location

street and number 312 E. Pennsylvania Avenue __ not for publication

city, town Baltimore __ vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name Michael Tracey

street and number 14209 Quail Creek Way telephone Not Available

city, town Sparks state MD zip code 21152-8832

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 10677 folio 362

city, town Towson tax map 70A tax parcel 290 tax ID number 906202231

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	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	_____	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	_____	_____ Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	_____	_____
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				1	

7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 1047

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

Constructed between 1905 and 1906, the Queen Anne-style dwelling is located on a grassy lot with a large parking lot to its east. Set on a random rubble-stone foundation, the wood frame dwelling, now converted to offices, has been re clad with vinyl German siding. Queen Anne-style detailing is evident in the irregular façade, canted second-story window bay, and wrap-around front porch with turned posts and balusters. The first story features two replacement, single-leaf, metal-paneled doors with leaded lights. These door openings are not original to the dwelling. They are set beside a tripartite vinyl replacement window that consists of a twelve-light fixed center window and flanking 4/4 windows. Set back from the projecting gable bay is a single-leaf, wood-paneled door with a stained and leaded glass Queen Anne-style light. At the second story, set directly on the hipped roof of the porch, is a three-sided canted window bay holding two 4/4 and one 6/6 vinyl replacement windows. A single 6/6 vinyl replacement window is set above the Queen Anne-style door. The upper half story is pierced by a round-arched 2/2 window. Numerous alterations and additions have been made to the dwelling, including its conversion to office space. On the east elevation, there is a two-story wood frame addition with a shed roof, a brick pier foundation, and a ramp for the physically disabled. An exterior wood stair has been constructed on the rear of the building, providing access to the second story. On the west elevation, an imposing glass block window has been installed in the stone foundation.

To the rear of the house, there is a circa 1990 prefabricated shed with grooved plywood cladding and a front-gabled roof.

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8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1047

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 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 1905-1906 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1905-1906

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 house at 312 East Pennsylvania Avenue was constructed between 1905 and 1906 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. 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-1047

- 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 .50 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Towson Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The house is located at 312 East Pennsylvania Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 290 since its construction in 1905-1906.

11. Form Prepared by

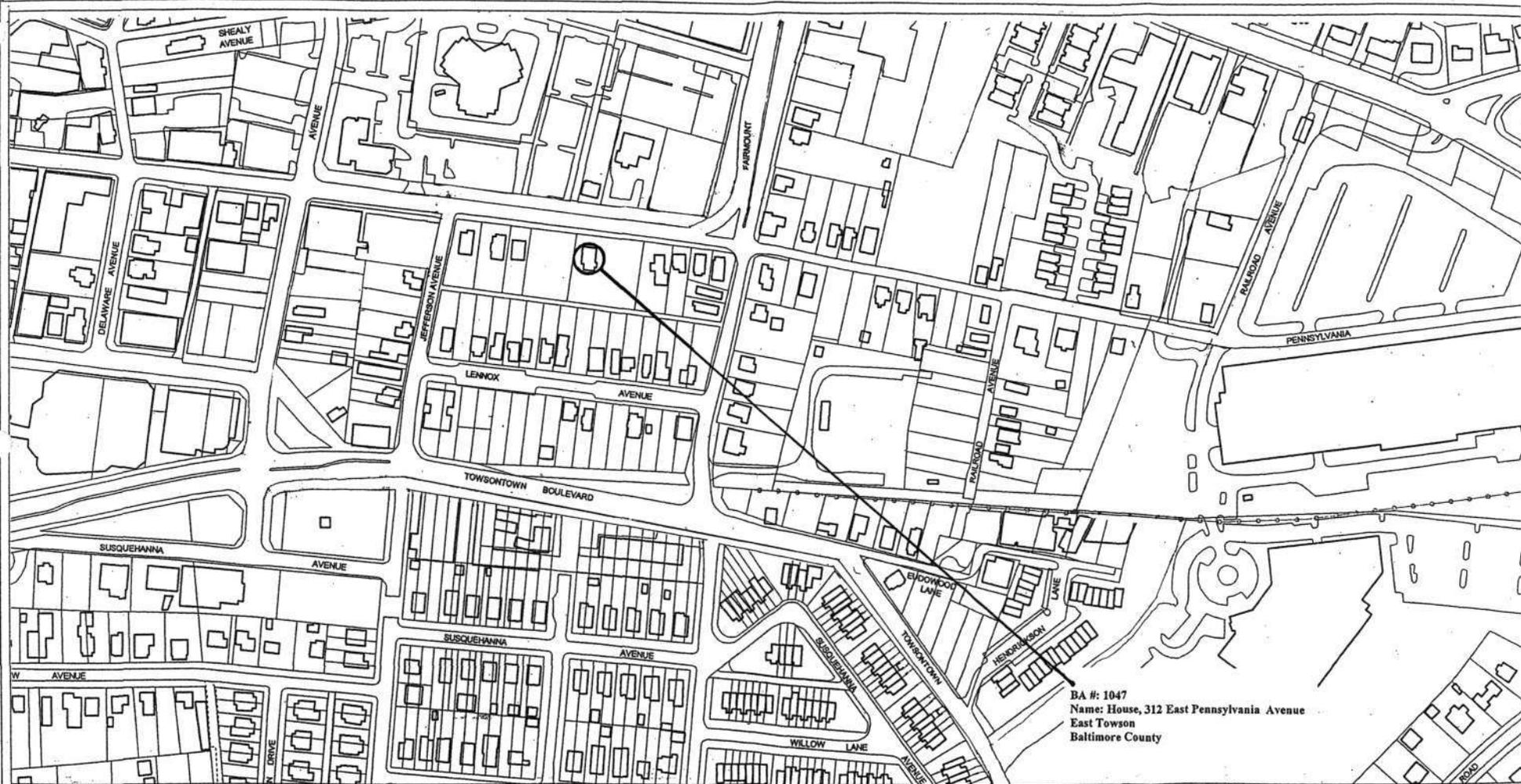
name/title	K. Baynard, R. Weidlich, J. Bunting, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	November 20, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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

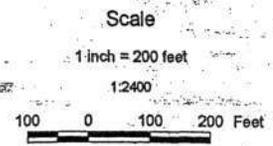
East Towson: Planimetric Data



BA #: 1047
 Name: House, 312 East Pennsylvania Avenue
 East Towson
 Baltimore County



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



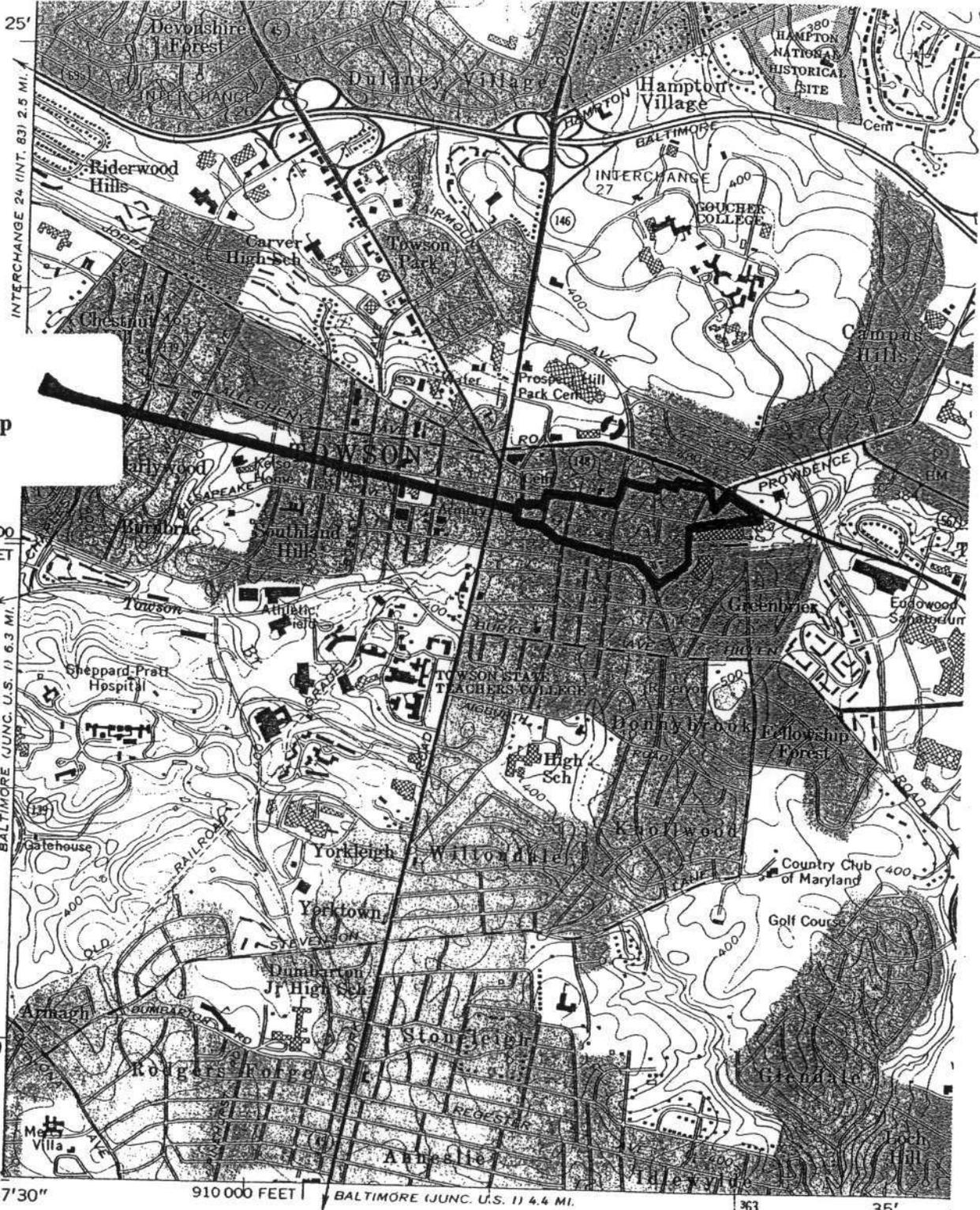
Legend

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

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-1047

East Towson
Towson, Maryland
Towson USGS Quad Map
Baltimore County

570 000
FEET
BALTIMORE (JUNC. U.S. 1) 6.3 MI.
39° 22' 30" N
76° 37' 30" W
910 000 FEET
BALTIMORE (JUNC. U.S. 1) 4.4 MI.

(BALTIMORE WEST)
5882' 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

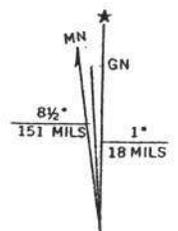
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

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-1047

HOUSE, 312 E. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

NORTHWEST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST

1 of 3

TRACERIES, 10/2001



PRIVATE
PROPERTY
NO TRESPASSING
AT OWNERS
RISK

BA-1047

HOUSE, 312 E. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

EAST ELEVATION, VIEW LOOKING WEST

2 of 3

TRALERIES, 10/2001



BA-1047

HOUSE, 312 E. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY MD

MD-SHPD

SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEW LOOKING NORTH

3 of 3

TRACERIES. 10/1001

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC THE FISHER HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 312 Pennsylvania Ave. second

CITY, TOWN Towson Md. 21204 VICINITY OF Baltimore CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE 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 Lucretia Fisher Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER 312 Pennsylvania Ave.

CITY, TOWN Towson Md. 21204 VICINITY OF STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore County Courthouse Liber #: Folio #: 4248:354

STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN Towson Md. 21204 STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

BA-1047 - 312 Pennsylvania

before 1898

This fine house, though of different detailing than its neighbor 308 Penna. (BA-1046) is also large and elaborately finished. It consists of a side stair hall and parlor followed by two rooms, one large kitchen, a shed addition, and a porch. A front porch wraps around the west side. The two-story frame house is two bays wide by five bays deep, with much elaborated exterior woodwork.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

312 Pa. (Pre 1898)

This finely finished two-story frame house appears on an 1898 map along with its neighbor, 308 Pa. The basic shape of the house is a two bay wide by five bay deep rectangle. The gable end, or north, facade faces the street. The floor plan begins with a stair hall to the east and a parlor to the west on the north, followed by side-by-side parlors and then one large room to the south. A one-story shed addition with a porch completes the block to the south. The middle parlors each have a rectangular bay window. A one-story hip-roofed porch runs across the north facade and along the west side to the bay window. Its jigsaw-cut balustrade is divided by turned posts. Brackets with flared ends brace the posts. A three-sided bay window is centered on the second floor of the facade. Its deep cornice overhangs a row of dentil work. Each of its windows contains 2/2 sash; the perimeter of the upper sash is divided into smaller squares and rectangles. The first floor windows in all but the two rear bays of the house are similarly treated.

An arched window lights the attic in the north gable. The scalloped barge board adds a decorative touch. A second floor porch is positioned above the east bay window. Each of the two bays is lit by one window on the north and south, and two windows on the east and west side, respectively. A cross-gable sheltering the west two-story bay window features a scalloped barge board and an arched window. One window lights the west side of the front parlor. A floor-to-ceiling window lights the north side of the parlor. The first floor windows are flanked by louvered shutters. The front door is composed of four panels below four small arched windows, running adjacent to each other. The door is flanked by side lights and topped by a three-pane transom.

A heavy square post with a turned newel cap stands at the foot of the stair. It is followed by turned balusters. The interior architraves features a central point flanked by beads. A diagonal fireplace rises in the southeast corner of the southwest parlor.

The house is covered with green asbestos shingles. It rests on a stone cellar. The many trees and high front hedges lend a secluded air to the house, which is actually set fairly close to the street.

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

Early land records indicate that this property was part of a large tract owned by Benjamin Payne (1853). The property was later conveyed to Emma P. Maddox, who conveyed the property to John Yellot in 1895. Around the turn of the century the Fisher house was constructed. Local history indicates that the house was built by William Robertson. William Robertson conveyed the property in 1898 to Henry Hick. The Hick family continued to live in the house until 1906 where upon the house was sold to John and Mary Shea. The Shea family lived in the Fisher house for thirty-nine years, after which the house was conveyed to Lillian G. Smith. Twelve years later the property was conveyed by Lillian G. Smith to Clairmont Tucker, who lived in the Fisher house until 1961 at which time the Armigers bought and lived in the house until 1963. In 1963 Lucretia Fisher, the present owner, bought the property. She has owned the property for the last fourteen years.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

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

Marcus E. Pollock/coordinator Merry Stinson/architect 7/77

ORGANIZATION

Committee to Save E. Towson/Towson Ymca

DATE

823-8870

STREET & NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Ave.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

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



BA-1097

The Fisher House

312 Pa. Ave.

Towson, Md.

north

Merry Stinson

1977