

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-1055**

**411 Pennsylvania Avenue**

**East Towson, Baltimore County**

**1885-1900**

Private

The dwelling at 411 Pennsylvania Avenue was constructed between 1885 and 1900 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 19<sup>th</sup> century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

Fronting south on a sloping grassy lot, this dwelling sits back from the road with a paved driveway leading to the house and a parged concrete block retaining wall at the front of the property. The original wood frame Gothic Revival influenced dwelling presents an L-shaped plan and is two-and-a-half stories high. It is capped with a cross gable roof with a steeply pitched centered gable roof on the façade. The centered gable contains a 2-light pointed upper sash over a 2-light lower sash window. The house sits on a solid random rubble stone foundation and is clad with wood shingles. The house features one interior-end stretcher-bond brick chimney and overhanging eaves. An imposing 1-story flat roof addition constructed of concrete is seen on the façade. The entrance to the building is accessed through double-leaf wood doors in the center of the addition. Eight-sided 9-light fixed windows flank the entrance. A cornerstone reads "Pride of Towson Lodge, 842, 1-B P.O.E. of W., 1928-1953." The function of the building has been converted from dwelling to social.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1055

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other

## 2. Location

street and number 411 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 Not available

street and number Not available telephone Not Available

city, town Not Available state zip code

## 4. Location of Legal Description

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

city, town Towson tax map unknown tax parcel unknown tax ID number

## 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input checked="" 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	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	<u>1</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
				<u>1</u>

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1055

### 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.

Fronting south on a sloping grassy lot, this dwelling sits back from the road with a paved driveway leading to the house and a parged concrete block retaining wall at the front of the property. The original wood frame Gothic Revival influenced dwelling presents an L-shaped plan and is two-and-a-half stories high. It is capped with a cross gable roof with a steeply pitched centered gable roof on the façade. The centered gable contains a 2-light pointed upper sash over a 2-light lower sash window. The house sits on a solid random rubble stone foundation and is clad with wood shingles. The house features one interior-end stretcher-bond brick chimney and overhanging eaves. An imposing 1-story flat roof addition constructed of concrete is seen on the façade. The entrance to the building is accessed through double-leaf wood doors in the center of the addition. Eight-sided 9-light fixed windows flank the entrance. A cornerstone reads "Pride of Towson Lodge, 842, 1-B P.O.E. of W., 1928-1953." The function of the building has been converted from dwelling to social.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1055

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:

<b>Specific dates</b>	1885-1900	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	1885-1900		

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 411 Pennsylvania Avenue was constructed between 1885 and 1900 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property 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 19<sup>th</sup> century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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-1055

- 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.
- 

## 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreege of surveyed property Unknown  
Acreege of historical setting Unknown  
Quadrangle name Towson Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The house is located at 411 Pennsylvania Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County.

---

## 11. Form Prepared by

---

name/title	K. Baynard, R. Weidlich, J. Bunting, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	December 28, 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

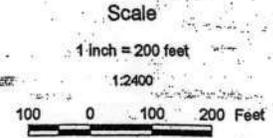
# East Towson: Planimetric Data



BA #: 1055  
 Name: House, 411 Pennsylvania Avenue  
 East Towson  
 Baltimore County



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



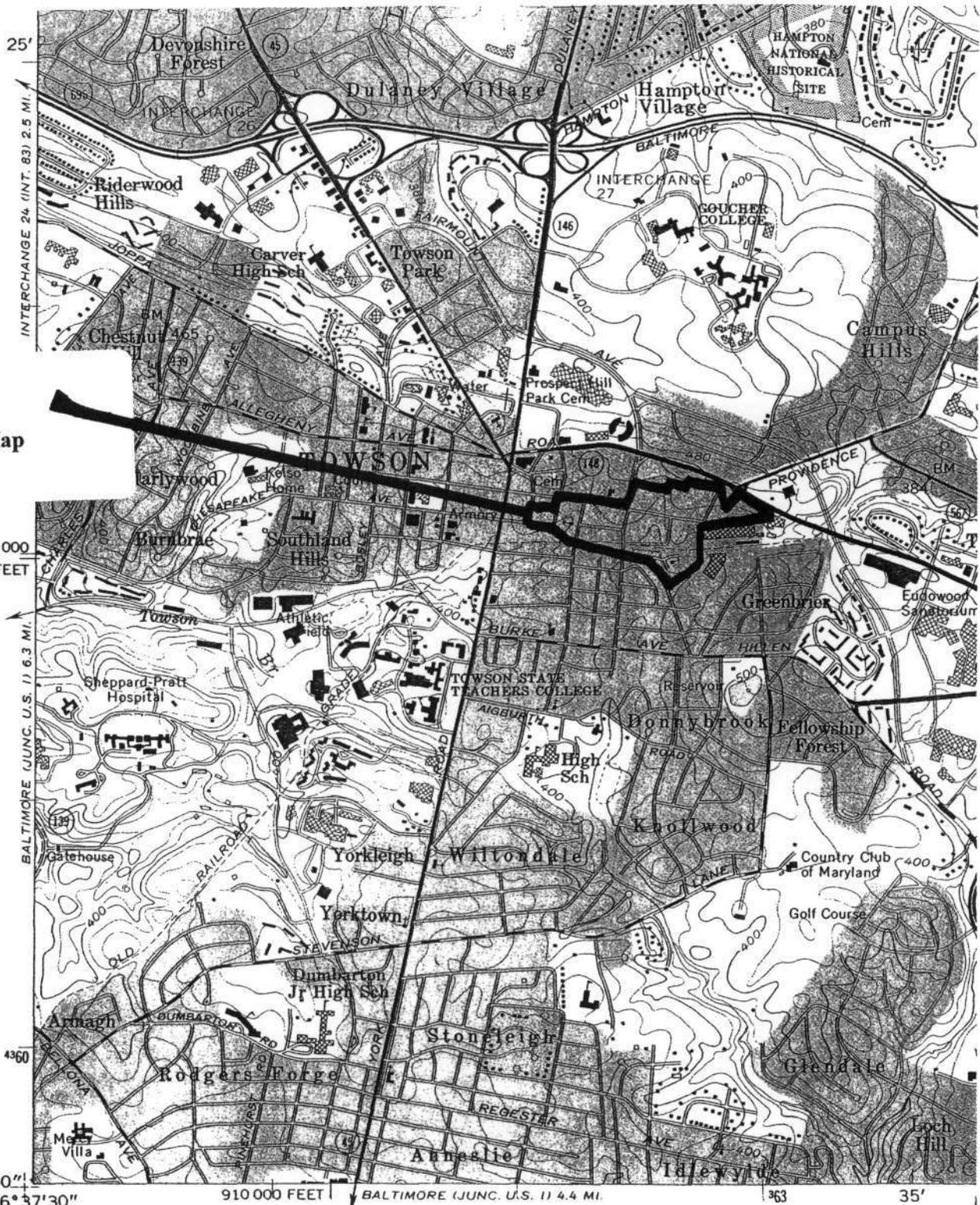
Legend

Paved Roads	Study Area Boundary	Hydrographic Features
Unpaved Roads	Buildings	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-1055

**East Towson  
Towson, Maryland  
Towson USGS Quad Map  
Baltimore County**

(BALTIMORE WEST)  
5682 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

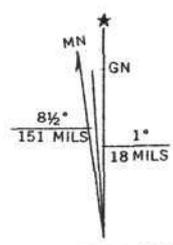
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944  
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

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-1055

HOUSE, 411 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

1 of 3



BA-1055

HOUSE, 411 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPO  
SOUTHWEST CORNER

2 of 3



BA-1055  
HOUSE, 411 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
TRAILERIES  
10/2001  
MD-SHPD  
EAST ELEVATION  
3 of 3

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC PRIDE OF TOWSON

AND/OR COMMON Elks Lodge #842

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 411 E. Pennsylvania Ave. second

CITY, TOWN Towson Md. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE VICINITY OF Baltimore COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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 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 Elks Lodge Telephone #: 823-9778

STREET & NUMBER 411 E. Pennsylvania Ave. Maryland 21204

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

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN Towson Md. STATE 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

BA-1055 - 411 Pennsylvania before 1898

The front of this two-story frame house has been maned by a concrete block addition. The original house is three bays wide by one bay deep, with a rear addition and a front cross gable. The house is covered with brown wooden shingles.

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

? Pa. (Pride of Towson Lodge)

This house appears on an 1898 map of Towson. It is a two-story frame structure covered with brown wooden shingles. Unfortunately, a concrete block addition obliterates the first floor level of the facade. Three 2/2 windows on the second floor, under a cross-gable lit by a pointed-arch window, remain on the south, street-facing facade. The east-west roof of the house parallels the street. A window on the first floor on the west and one on each floor on the east light the gable ends. A two-story gabled addition projects from the west end of the north side. A one-story shed addition fills the block in the northeast corner. The house rests on a stone foundation.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

- |                                      |   |   |   |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|
| <b>PERIOD</b>                        |   | <b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</b> |   |  |  |
| <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

The Towson Elks is one example of another successful attempt to meet the spiritual and social needs of E. Towson community.

**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 Pollock and Merry Stinson/architect 7/77

ORGANIZATION

Committee to Save E. Towson

DATE

823-8870

STREET & NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Ave.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

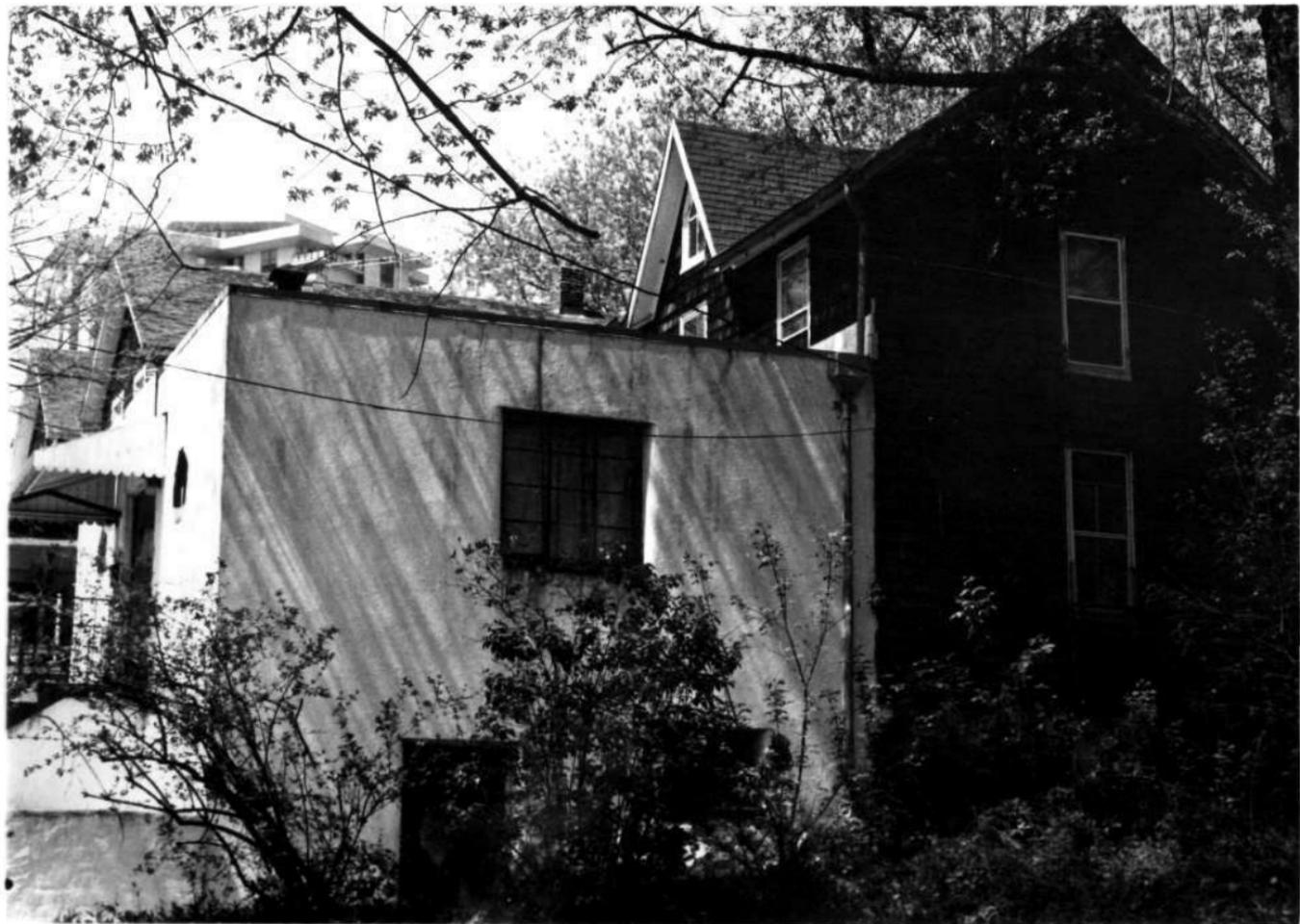
Towson Md. 21204

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-1055  
Towson Elks #842  
411 Pa. Ave.  
Towson, Md.  
southeast

Merry Stinson  
1977