

CAPSULE SUMMARY

~~BA-1070~~ BA-1069

406 Railroad Avenue

East Towson, Baltimore County

Circa 1900

Private

The vernacular dwelling at 406 Railroad Avenue was constructed circa 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 descendants 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.

This wood frame single-family dwelling has foundation plantings and hedges located to the front of the property. This house is two stories in height and two bays wide with a front gable roof on a narrow rectangular lot. It sits on a solid concrete foundation and is re-clad with asphalt shingles. A one-story shed-roof porch covers the full-width of the façade and is supported with square posts and a continuous wood frame balustrade. The balustrade is re-clad with rolled asphalt. The entry uses a single-leaf flush wood door, and the replacement windows are 1/1 double-hung vinyl sashes. The front gable roof is covered with asbestos shingles. Two center-interior brick chimneys with parged caps rise above the asphalt shingle roof and boxed wood cornice. A one story shed roof addition is located on the rear elevation. A 1920s shed sits on a concrete block foundation and is clad with weatherboard siding using corner boards. It has a front gable roof and a central entrance with a double-leaf vertical board door. A six-light fixed sash window is above the entrance, and two fixed four-light windows flank the entry.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

BA-1069
Inventory No. BA-1070

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other

2. Location

street and number 406 Railroad Avenue __ not for publication

city, town Baltimore __ vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name Margaret A. Brown

street and number 421 E. Pennsylvania Avenue telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21286-5409

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 3501 folio 269

city, town Towson tax map 70A tax parcel 214 tax ID number 902654180

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	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	_____
		<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 <u>1</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1070

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.

This wood frame single-family dwelling has foundation plantings and hedges located to the front of the property. Constructed circa 1900, this vernacular house is two stories in height and two bays wide with a front gable roof on a narrow rectangular lot. It sits on a solid concrete foundation and is re-clad with asphalt shingles. A one-story shed-roof porch covers the full-width of the façade and is supported with square posts and a continuous wood frame balustrade. The balustrade is re-clad with rolled asphalt. The entry uses a single-leaf flush wood door, and the replacement windows are 1/1 double-hung vinyl sashes. The front gable roof is covered with asbestos shingles. Two center-interior brick chimneys with parged caps rise above the asphalt shingle roof and boxed wood cornice. A one-story shed-roof addition is located on the rear elevation. A 1920s shed is associated with this site. It sits on a concrete block foundation and is clad with weatherboard siding using corner boards. It has a front gable roof and a central entrance with a double-leaf vertical board door. A six-light fixed sash window is above the entrance, and two fixed four-light windows flank the entry.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1070

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	1900 ca.	Architect/Builder	Unknown
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Construction dates	1900 ca.
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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 406 Railroad Avenue was constructed circa 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 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-1070~~

- 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

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>.08 Acre</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>Unknown</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Towson</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The dwelling is located at 406 Railroad Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 214 since its construction circa 1900.

11. Form Prepared by

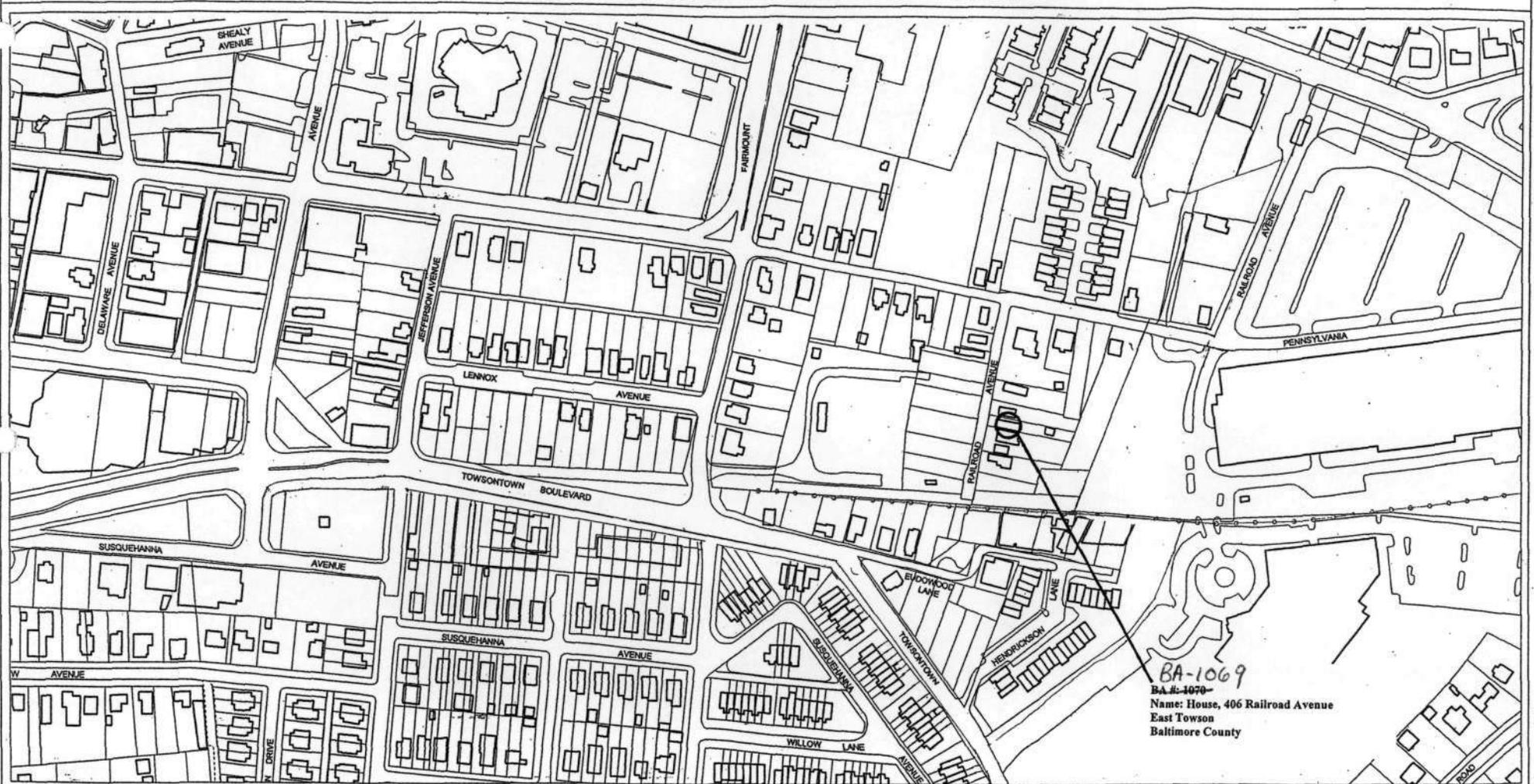
name/title	J. Bunting, K. Baynard, R. Weidlich, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	November 28, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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

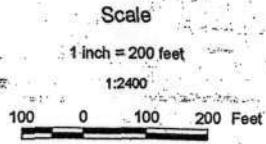
East Towson: Planimetric Data



BA-1069
 BA #: 1070
 Name: House, 406 Railroad Avenue
 East Towson
 Baltimore County



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

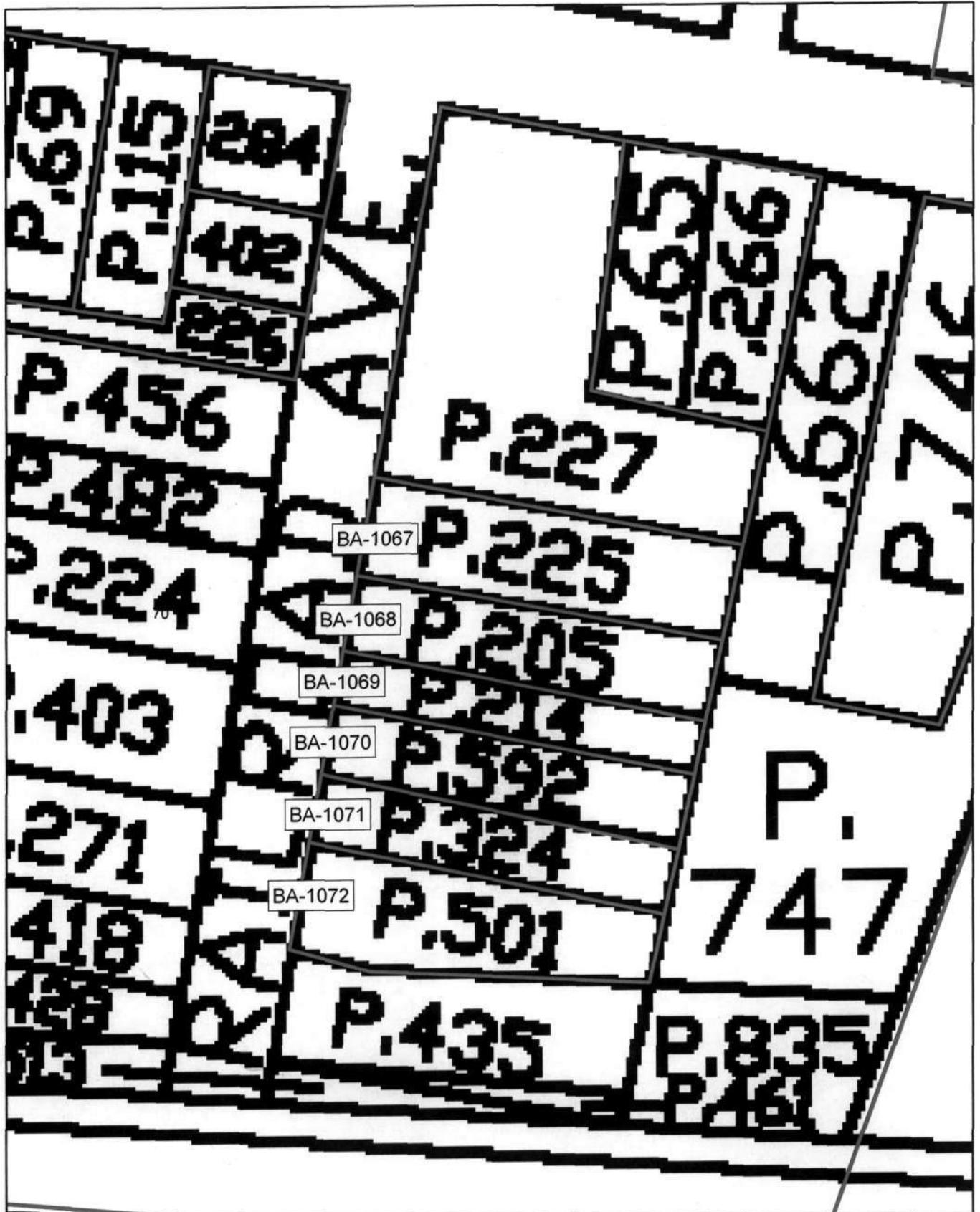


- Legend
- Study Area Boundary
 - Paved Roads
 - Unpaved Roads
 - Paved Parking / Driveways
 - Hydrographic Features
 - Buildings
 - Vegetation

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'





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East Towson
Towson, Maryland
Towson USGS Quad Map
Baltimore County

(BALTIMORE WEST)
2682 (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

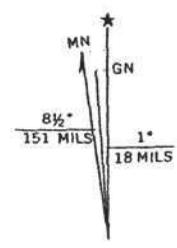
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

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-1069

~~BA-1070~~

HOUSE, 406 RAILROAD AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

NORTHWEST CORNER

1 of 4



BA-1069

~~BA 1070~~

HOUSE, 4106 RAILROAD AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRAILERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

WEST ELEVATION

2 of 4



BA-1069

~~BA-1070~~

HOUSE, 406 RAILROAD AVENUE

BALTIMORE County, MD

TRAILERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPO

EAST ELEVATION

3 of 4



BA-1069

~~BA-1070~~

SHED, 406 RAILROAD AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

WEST ELEVATION

4 of 4

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC ~~THE RUBY KENTON HOUSE~~

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 406 Railroad Ave second

CITY, TOWN Towson Md. 21204 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE VICINITY OF 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 Ruby Kenton Telephone #: _____

STREET & NUMBER 406 Railroad Ave

CITY, TOWN Towson Md. 21204 STATE, zip code

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore County Courthouse Liber #: Folio #: 4790:761

STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN Towson Md. 21204 STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

BA-1069 - 406 Railroad

before 1915

This two-story frame house is two bays wide by two rooms deep, followed by a one-story kitchen addition. A stair runs between the two rooms. A porch runs across the street-facing gable end.

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-1069

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

This is one of many houses on Railroad Ave. which first appeared on a 1915 map of Towson. The frame house is two stories high, two bays wide and two long bays deep with a one story shed-roofed kitchen addition to the rear. The main block of the house is two rooms deep with a stair between. A stove flue rises in the east wall of the second room, while a fireplace appears in the east wall of the front room. Two thin carved brackets run from the floor to the mantel shelf on either side of the fireplace. The interior architraves are marked by a fat central bead and meet in mitered corners rather than corner blocks.

The west gable end faces the street. The front door opens from the south end of the facade, while the other three bays each contain a 2/2 sash window. A semi-enclosed shed-roofed porch with thin square posts crosses this facade. The gable end is covered with white asbestos shingles, while the rest of the house is covered with red asphalt shingles imitating brick. The house rests on a stone foundation.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 deeds indicate that this property was part of the property leased by John Finn to Susan Gray in 1892. Francis Hines later (1899) received the property from Susan Gray. Francis Hines controlled the property for forty-three years at which time the property was sold to the R. S. Construction Co.(1942). The R. S. Construction Company retained the property for three years, whereupon the property was conveyed to Charles Gardner (1945). The Gardner family held the property until 1952 at which time the property was conveyed to Raymond and Beatrice Woodard (1955). The Woodards subsequently conveyed the property to Saunders Almond in 1955. Saunders Almond retained the property six-years at which time the property was conveyed to the present owners Ruby Kenton.

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/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-1069
The Ruby Kenton House
406 R.R.
Towson, Md.
west

Merry Stinson
1977