

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cross - Gable (Ashby House)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

42 W. Chesapeake Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input 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 checked="" 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

Equitable Trust Bank

Telephone #: 828-7927

STREET & NUMBER

401 Washington Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New Courts Building

Liber #: See Attachment

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>Summer, 1978</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The location of this house, on the block just East of the Courthouse, is one which has seen some of Towson's heaviest high rise development. The little frame house is nearly obliterated by its brick and cinder block additions and yet the whole structure is an outdated dwarf in the midst of giants.

Structural examination, early atlases and a 1953 photograph indicate that this was once one of a half dozen houses occupying a row of small, long and narrow lots.

The 1877 Atlas shows no other structure on this site than a tiny building that is probably a springhouse. The 1898 Atlas shows a brick building on John I. Yellott's land directly behind the Masonic Hall, however, it occupies the Southwest corner of the lot which is approximately where the Jennifer Building now stands. Undocumented oral history mentions a tavern on this site. The 1915 Atlas however, shows the subdivision of this land into six improved lots.

The original portion of the house is a two story frame structure, only two bays wide with a cross gable facade. The plan was T-shaped being composed of a main block that is two bays wide and two deep and a wing projecting in the rear (North) three bays long and one wide. A very narrow one bay extension telescopes from it.

All of the wings are two stories in height and capped with a slate gable-end roof. When viewed from the top of the eight story building next door, the roof appears cruciform in shape because of the cross-gable.

The original siding is beneath the modern exterior covering. On portions of the building one can see beveled clapboards.

The fenestration was very regular although the windows themselves have been altered and even closed-up in places. The gables are vented by square louvered vents.

A flue chimney exits the roof of the North wing at the ridge approximately 2/3 of the distance from the front to back.

The South facade was the main or street facade. A 1953 photograph in the possession of Mr. Green (present occupant) shows that this facade was the most decorative. In addition to the cross-gable there was a porch covering the first story and somewhat unusual fenestration. The porch floor was supported by brick piers and its roof by three square columns. It was partially enclosed by a railing with square balusters. An entrance occupied the East bay and it had a 2-light transom. A double window with two 1/1 sash occupied the West bay. It was topped by a round arch window. The upstairs was vented by a centrally located row of three 1/1 windows.

The interior contains little or no original fabric. According to the occupant the house was one room in width and had a telescoping room arrangement which began in the front with a parlor that led into a dining room and then a kitchen. There were three rooms above as well.

There is a stone basement of the same size as the frame house above. The walls of the cellar are made of uncoursed rubble. Circular sawn joists were observed with braces fixed with cut nails.

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 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 *1898-1915*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although commercial alterations have nearly obliterated this wooden frame residential building one can climb the mid-rise parking facility next to it and see that it is an unusual cross-gable house.

The average cross-gable is an odd number of bays wide which is the end result of maintaining symmetry in a central hall plan. The cross-gable or "central pediment" lends itself to such an arrangement. Where there are an even number of bays there is more often than not a side-hall and parlor plan. In this house, however, there were only two bays and early photographs and oral history show that there are two bays of a single room to the main facade indicative of a longitudinal or "shot gun" plan.

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

See Attachment

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

WAYNE E. NIELD, II
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

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

TITLE SEARCH

Liber 1033, Folio 196 August 4, 1938
 Grantor: Elmer Haile & wife
 Grantee: Catherine D. Ashby & husband

Liber 576, Folio 140 June 28, 1923
 Grantor: Ellis Finkelstein
 Grantee: Elmer Haile

Beginning...Northernmost side of Chesapeake Ave. one foot easterly from
 the end of the first line of...J.I.Yellott to the Fitzpatrick lot.

Liber 558, Folio 368 July 29, 1922
 Grantor: Sallie C. Russell
 Grantee: Ellis Finkelstein

Liber 530, Folio 436 April 21, 1921
 Grantor: Frank & Leila Hettchen
 Grantee: Sallie C. Russell

Liber 525, Folio 369 May 20, 1920
 Grantor: Frank P. Fitzpatrick & wife
 Grantee: Frank & Leila Hettchen

Part of ground conveyed by John I. Yellott & wife to F. Fitzpatrick in 1909.

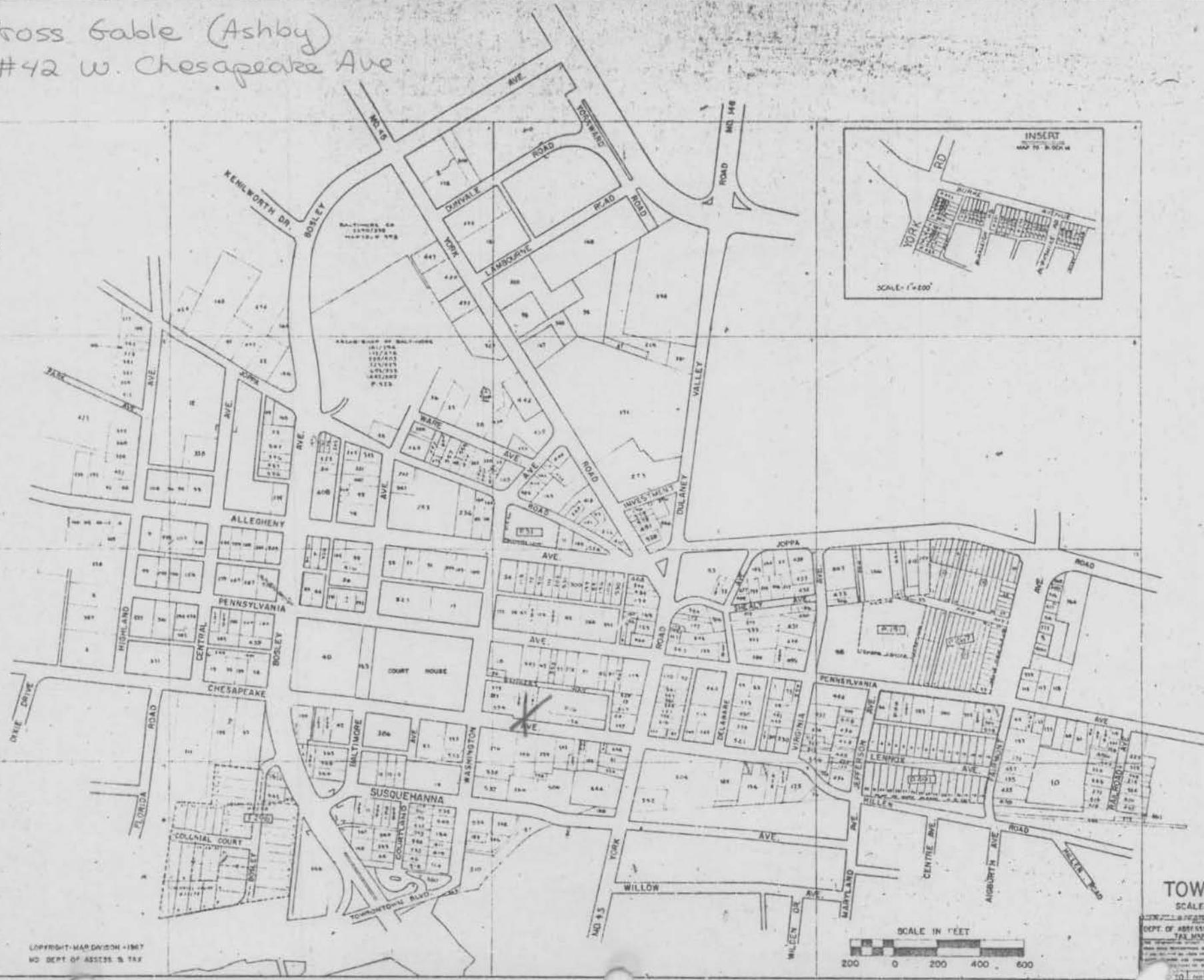
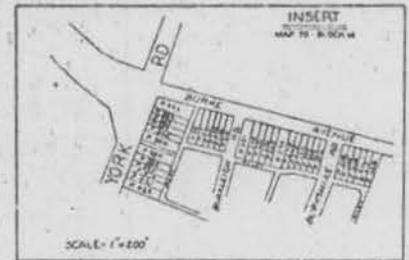
Liber 342, Folio 149 April 27, 1909
 Grantor: John I. Yellott & wife
 Grantee: Frank Fitzpatrick

One of three lots granted to John I. Yellott by George Yellott et. al. 1891

Liber 105, Folio 396
 Liber 188, Folio 41 April 25, 1891
 Liber 223, Folio 461
 Grantor: George Yellott
 Grantee: John I. Yellott

Cross Gable (Ashby)
 #42 W. Chesapeake Ave

BX-1100



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 MD DEPT. OF ASSES. & TAX.

TOWSON
 SCALE 1"=200'

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENT & TAXATION
 TAX MAP 2-10000
 20 1/2" x 14 1/2" 1:25,000

MAP N
 70A



BA-1100

CROSS-GABLE
#42 W. CHESAPEAKE
N.

W. Nield
Sum-78



BA-1100

CROSS-CABLE
#42 W. CHESAPEAKE Ave
E.

W. NIELD
SUM-78