

BA 1237

GIES HOUSE
354 Main Street
Reisterstown, Maryland.

Private

354 Main Street is a traditional frame house dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century, originally a small house with a single parlor facing the street and a kitchen in a wing behind. Typical of many early houses in Reisterstown, it had an early or original shop wing attached on the south. About 1900 the shop wing was raised to two full storeys and incorporated into the dwelling.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Gies House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

354 Main Street

6th

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

PRIVATE

___BOTH

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

STATUS

OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

ACCESSIBLE

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. N. T. Vincent III

Telephone #: 833-4128

STREET & NUMBER

354 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21136

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 5787

Folio #: 402

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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 DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

354 Main Street is a two storey, gable-roofed frame house facing the street to the east. As a result of modest additions about 1900, this house, originally dating from ca. 1825-1840, is somewhat irregular in form. Originally this house was probably two bays in width, two storeys in height, with an original or very early one storey shop wing at its south end, later raised to two full storeys and incorporated into the dwelling. The two storey shed-roofed rear wing, its roof a continuation of the main roof, was also extended to the south, the northerly portion being the original, contemporary with the main house.

The first storey is expressed as three bays, the southerly being quite narrow; the second storey is expressed as two bays of approximately equal width and a broad shingled gable in the roof rises above the southerly bay. A one storey porch shelters the principal entrance in the middle bay and the window in the bay to its north; the porch roof is gabled, rising high on the wall between the two second storey windows, and it is supported by clusters of three turned columns at each outer corner. The north wall of the rear wing extends above the roof as a short, raked parapet. Two rear or westerly windows of the second storey are half-dormers.

Exterior walls are covered with weatherboarding. Windows are 1/1, flanked with louvred blinds. A two-flue brick chimney rises internally at the north gable and a large single-flue chimney rises internally above the west wall of the rear wing, immediately north of a joint in the weatherboards below. The wing chimney was initially at the corner of the rear wing, a typical location.

Within, a hall extends through the middle bay of the first storey, a single room is to the north and a small room is to the south. Originally, the south wall of the hall was the south wall of the house. A single large room is in the rear wing and the fireplace is approximately centered; the original south wall of the wing was immediately south of the chimney.

The open staircase rises in the entrance hall with winders at the top. Its beaded rail is supported by a square newel chamfered to the octagonal, and having an acorn finial; balusters are rectangular. Openings are trimmed with architraves having a cyma reversa with astrigal backband. The mantel of the southerly room has routed plain pilasters supporting a plain frieze with raised end blocks matching the pilasters. The mantel in the rear wing has paneled pilasters supporting a paneled frieze.

The original south wall is partially removed in the second storey, allowing a room in the southeast corner to extend into the original house and the south addition. Details generally are similar to those below but the architrave fireplace surround in the north room is modern.

In the attic, the studs of the original south gable remain, fastened with cut nails. The straight-sawn oak rafters are joined at the ridge with a pegged mortise and tenon joint. Roof framing of the East gable and south extension terminates on the ridge board.

The cellar extends under the main house and the south extension. Joists beneath the main house are straight-sawn but joists of the south extension are of log, indicating their early or original date.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1237

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
					local history	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES _____ BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house stands on ground that was divided up into lots by Henry Wiest at the time of John Reister's death. As Reister's executor, Wiest created 19 building lots out of the estate and sold them all off between 1805-1811. (Marks op. cit., p. 182). This house is situated on portions of Lot #3 and Lot #4. These lots were owned by members of the Beckley family: Elizabeth (m. Solomon Choate) owned #3 (WG 154/406/07) and John Beckley owned #4 (WG 113/243). The property was divided and resold and the deeds have not been found. (Marks, op. cit., p. 182). It is possible that the Beckleys built the house which now stands on the land.

In 1858, Edward Lowe and his wife, owners of the lot, sold a house and the ground to H. Lewis Gies for \$458.00. (GHC 24/113). In 1870, H. Lewis Gies sold the property to John Gies, Sr. for \$1,300.00. (EHA 66/206). John Gies, Sr., and his son were shoe-makers in the Reisterstown area. At one time, a shoe shop operated out of this house. H. Lewis Gies, according to the 1877 Atlas of Baltimore County (Hopkins), had a Boot and Shoe Manufacturing Shop across the street from this house.

In addition to being a successful small businessman, John Gies, Sr. was instrumental in beginning the Lutheran Church in Reisterstown. The minutes of a meeting held August 10, 1855 for the purpose of organizing a Lutheran congregation indicates that it took place in #354 Main Street. John Gies, Sr. continued to serve the Church (which flourished) until his death. (Redcay, op. cit., p. 11).

After Gies' death, his wife continued to live in the house in accordance with his will. (Wills NBM 246/77). The 1898 Bromley Atlas of Baltimore County shows Mrs. J. Gies as the owner of the property. Members of the Gies and the Owings family subsequently owned the house in the 1900's. It became a real estate office in the 1960's. In 1977, the present owners purchased it for a residence. (5787/402).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Land Records
Baltimore County Probate Records
Reister's Desire, Lillian Bayly Marks (Baltimore, 1975)
Redcay, Harold: A brief account of Lutheranism in Reisterstown, Baltimore County, Maryland, (Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, 1955)

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 James T. Wollon A.I.A.

NAME / TITLE **Christine & Nicholas Vincent, Volunteer Researchers**
Cornelia M. Ives, Project Coordinator

DATE **Sept. 1978**

ORGANIZATION **Historic Reisterstown, Inc.**

TELEPHONE **833-3078 (Ms. Ives)**

STREET & NUMBER **430 Main Street**

CITY OR TOWN **Reisterstown, Md. 21136**

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 1237

Gies House

354 Main St

Reist. Md

Carol Pollack

4/77

West.