

317 Main Street  
Reisterstown, Maryland  
Private Access

317 MAIN STREET incorporates one of the 5-7 remaining log houses in Reisterstown. Once most common, log construction is now the rarest form of early construction. Veneering log houses with brick was common in nineteenth century Western Maryland. The later, mid-nineteenth century additions retain some original detailing.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

LOG HOUSE

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

317 Main Street

6th

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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 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 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

Mrs. Louis Susemihl

Telephone #: 833-3064

STREET & NUMBER

317 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD 21136

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County

Liber #: 1278

Folio #: 374

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

MD

**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 type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

317 MAIN STREET is a two storey brick house, five bays in length, closely oriented to and facing the street to the west; behind its two northerly bays is a one-storey brick kitchen wing. All brickwork is common bond. Brick chimneys rise flush above each gable end. The entrance is centered, its head supported by a rowlock segmental arch; 6/6 windows in each bay have wooden lintels with corner blocks. The cornice is of corbeled brick. On the rear(east) facade the two northerly bays project a few inches beyond bays to the south and only that portion south of the kitchen wing is of brick.

The two northerly bays are of log construction, veneered with brick in the mid-nineteenth century when the house was enlarged. This original portion measures approximately 16 by 20, excluding the brick veneer. It is a single room in each storey and the thicker log walls appear to remain on all four sides. The first storey room has been refinished extensively, including a new brick fireplace. Windows(in both storeys) are trimmed by jamb and head facings edged with an ovoid profile, without an architrave.

A narrow hall extends through the middle bay, immediately south of the original portion. A small open stair rises with a turn to the second floor, its round rail supported by a square tapered newel with a moulded cap. Corner-block architraves surround openings in the later southerly portion and the ledge doors of the second storey are hung on BALDWIN PATENT hinges.

In the attic, accessible by a narrow straight stair in the southwest corner, the original rafters are slim logs, joined at the ridge with a pegged mortise-and-tenon joint. The rafters of the later portion are straight-sawn oak, mortised-and-tenoned at the ridge but not pegged.

Behind 317 MAIN STREET is a small two-storey frame barn or carriage house. Twentieth century sliding doors are in the first storey of the west facade and two openings of louvres are above, each with a raked head above two-segmentally-arched lancets.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			local history

SPECIFIC DATES ? BUILDER/ARCHITECT ?

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house incorporates one of the 5-7 remaining log houses in Reisterstown. Once most common, log construction is now the rarest form of early construction. Veneering log houses with brick was common in nineteenth century Western Maryland. The later, mid-nineteenth century additions retain some original detailing.

In January, 1793, John Reister I deeded to his son John Reister, Jr. 60 acres of Brotherly Love tract (WG No. II 1793:140-141) John II was a farmer and also ran a distillery (across the road from the Inn). He was very prosperous.

In 1809, he deeded some of this acreage on the east side of the turnpike to a neighbor, Frederick Switzer. (WG 106/73) (Marks op.cit. p. 82-83) The purchase price in 1809 was \$50.00 indicating that there were probably no improvements on the land. Ten years later, Switzer deeded the same property to William Collins and the price was \$600.00. (WG 154/85) The rise in price would indicate that the property had been improved-probably with the original log house. (There is no mention of a building corresponding to the Switzer log dwelling on the 1798 Tax Assessment. Being log, it may not have had enough value; if, indeed, it had been built then.)

In 1841, William Collins sold this property to Peter Reister (TK 309/131). Reister was the youngest son of Philip Reister and had been born in 1787. In the war of 1812 he was a sergeant in Capt. Ducker's Company, Seventh Regiment of the Baltimore County Militia, and he also served in the same capacity in Randall's Volunteer Soldiers who also served in the War of 1812. He was a merchant, and for a time was a partner of Capt. Jeremiah Ducker's in a dry goods store. He had begun acquiring land and property in 1829 when he purchased a mill from a brother-in-law, Levi Owings. (WG 198/294) In 1823 he acquired Henry Reister's land on the east side of the turnpike in Reisterstown (Henry was an uncle) and, in 1841, he bought this adjoining land from William Collins. (WG 169/285-87 and TK 309/131) The purchase price for this land from Collins was \$400.00. (Marks op.cit. pp. 192-193 & 78-79)

Peter Reister's will, dated 26 April 1845 devised the property to his sister, Hannah Reister Owings (DMP No. 20, 1844-1845:448-449) Hannah held the land and house until 1864. There is no evidence that she lived here. She most certainly did enlarge the house at this period and was responsible for the brick veneer which was added at this time. In 1864, Hannah sold the house to her son Levi and daughter Indiana Shutze. (JHL 40/99-100) The price was now \$1000.00, indicating an improvement to the house.

What occurred between 1864 and 1874 is somewhat of a mystery. We know that Levi Owings, who was a merchant in Reisterstown, moved to Missouri in 1854; then to Kentucky where he was married. He and his wife eventually settled in Kansas where he was a farmer and raised stock. (Owings, op.cit. p. 274) In 1865, Hannah Owings, acting

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

---

**8 Significance Continued**

with the power of attorney from Levi Owings of Nevada, and her daughter Indiana conveyed the property to James Warren for \$2,000.00(16/143) Warren was a prosperous blacksmith who was buying up much of the Reister property around this time. Warren held the property until 1874, at which time, Warren and William S. Keech acting as trustees, sold it to Dr. J. McKendry Kemp and his wife. (WB 92/179)

The Kemps occupied this property for nine years. In the 1876 Tax Assessment, Kemp is charged; Lot & Improvements \$900.00  
Stable 25.00

Catherine Armacost purchased the property in 1883(JWS 182/371)

In 1902, William Pouder purchased the property from Armacost (264/384) He died in 1912 and his wife died intestate with four children as heirs. In 1943, then, the estate was auctioned off and was purchased by the Louis Susemihls. Mrs. Susemihl still lives in the house.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Sources: Marks, Lillian B, Reister's Desire (Baltimore, 1975)  
 Owings, A.D. & E.S., Owings and Allied Families (Polyanthos Press, 1976)  
 Land Records, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .50 acres

---

**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

Cornelia M. Ives, Project Coordinator

September, 1978

ORGANIZATION

Historic Reisterstown, Inc

DATE

833-3078 (Ms Ives)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

430 Main Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Reisterstown, Maryland 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



317 Main Street

BA 1253

317 Main St- Reisterstown

Carol Pollack

4-77

~~EAST~~ West.