

5/79

BA 1256

249 MAIN STREET  
Reisterstown, Maryland.

Private

249 Main Street is one of the earliest houses of Reisterstown, probably dating from the late 18th century, having many characteristics in common with its neighbor 301-303. Its brick construction and Flemish bond front indicate the substantial prosperity of its builder.

The small barn is one of the few remaining out-buildings in Reisterstown.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

John Reister III House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

249 MAIN STREET

6th

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Baltimore Co.

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Joseph F. Ward

Telephone #: 833-3566

STREET & NUMBER

244 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21136

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County

Liber #: 2436

Folio #: 119

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 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		

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 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE
 

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## 249 MAIN STREET

249 Main Street is a two storey brick house, three bays in length, oriented to the street facing west. Its west facade is laid in Flemish bond, above a water table, characteristics, together with others, which relate this house to its neighbor 301-303, and like its neighbor, it probably dates from the late eighteenth century. Its interior was not accessible for inspection.

Ends and the rear facade are of common bond. Brick chimneys rise flush with each gable. The principal entrance is in the middle bay of the west front, slightly north of center. Windows of the west front have replacement 2/2 sash in wide frames, probably original. Windows in each storey in the south end, close to the southwest corner, have replacement 6/6 sash in narrow replacement frames. Jack arches above first storey windows are five courses in height while those of the second storey are four courses in height.

A two-storey, two-bay frame wing extends behind the north end. A one-storey hipped-roof porch extends across the west or street front. The gabled roof of the main house rises above a wide plain cornice, eave returns and a similar rake cornice.

Behind the dwelling is a small barn of frame construction, two storeys in height, sheathed in vertical board-and-batten siding. Its gable end is oriented to the side street, Bond Avenue, and it contains a small louvred window west of a single door hung on long wrought iron strap hinges. A pair of doors is at the north end of the west side and a larger opening closed with modern materials is at the south end; a small door opens into a loft, approximately centered in the west side.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1256

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 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)	local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

249 MAIN STREET

In 1813 John Reister, Jr. deeded this lot on which this house stands to his son, John Reister, III. The deed mentions houses. (WG 125/189ff) There were 2 acres in this parcel at the time. The house is similar to its neighbor 301-303 (Q.v.) and was probably built around the same time. There was no mention of the house, however, in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Record. Houses are mentioned in all the deeds from John Reister, Sr. and Jr. to their children. These were probably built as the children married, but were not conveyed until later. Construction dates of dwellings can only be approximated as between time of marriages and dates of deeds. (Marks, op.cit., Note 19, p.41.)

John, Jr. followed his father's custom and deeded land to his children between 1804 and 1813 for their houses. John III probably farmed his father's land and helped with other family enterprises. He married Hellen Chapman in 1801. They had eight children. On April 11, 1822 "in consideration of Love and Affection" John Reister III, in turn, deeded the property to his seven remaining children. (BC WG 125/189 and WG 163/442) (Marks, op. cit., p. 91)

Hellen died in 1834, and John III lived with his five unmarried daughters in #249. When he died in 1841, he devised to the four unmarried daughters this property. (BC Wills DMP 18; (1840) 42; 216-17) These girls were; Charlotte 1802-1888; Margaret 1807-1877 ; Caroline 1811-1856; and Ann Rebecca 1818-1863.

In 1845, Charlotte married William Dwyer, Jr. a widower with one child. She was 43 years old. It is assumed that she moved away.

Caroline died in 1856; Ann Rebecca in 1863.

Charlotte became a widow in 1870 when William Dwyer died. She returned to the house on the corner of Bond and Main Street, and lived with her last remaining sister, Margaret, until Margaret's death in 1877. The Atlas for Baltimore County 1877 (Hopkins) shows this site as the home of the Misses Reister.

Charlotte lived on alone in #249. In 1887, she purchased the house and 2 acres from David McIntosh, trustee for the estate, for \$1405.00. She died in 1888. She willed her property to her step granddaughter, Emma Shriver, to be used for her life, and after her death to be equally divided among Emma's children. (BC Wills TP 8/309-10)

Emma Shriver died in 1908 and her children received the property as planned. They were; Charlotte D. Shriver, Elizabeth Shriver & Frank Shriver. Charlotte and Elizabeth died leaving Frank as the sole heir of #249. When he died his will appointed the Mercantile Trust Co. as Trustee. (BC Wills WJP 23/414)

In 1929 the Mercantile Trust Co. deeded the property to C. William Parker for \$3650.00.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

See sheet #2

BA-1256

249 MAIN STREET

SIGNIFICANCE

Sheet # 2

Parker leased the property and eventually sold it to Vincent T. Caples  
(LMcLM 833/189)

Caples sold the property in 1954 to Joseph Ward and his wife, Mary.  
They still live in the house.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- 1. B.C.Wills, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Md.
- 2. Land Records, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Md.
- 3. Lillian B.Marks, Reisters Desire (Baltimore, 1975)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 65' x 163'

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 Mrs. George Cosman, Volunteer researcher  
Cornelia M.Ives, Project Coordinator

9/78

ORGANIZATION Historic Reisterstown, Inc.

DATE

STREET & NUMBER 430 Main St.

TELEPHONE 833-3078 (Ives)

CITY OR TOWN Reisterstown

STATE Maryland

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 1256

249 Main St  
Reist. Md

Carol Pollack  
4177

West