

BA 1269

8/78

Selby Funeral Home

Reisterstown, Maryland

Private Access

10 MAIN STREET is an example of an original house form in the Colonial Revival of the second and third decades of the twentieth century: a two-story square house with a pyramidal roof. It is served the community many years as the funeral home and residence of its proprietor. Its older back building was a stable, grainery and hay barrack, carriage house, a storage area for the hearse and a display area for caskets.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC, **Selby Funeral Home**

AND/OR COMMON

**Eline Funeral Home**

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER **10 Main Street**

**6th**

CITY, TOWN

**Reisterstown**

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

**Maryland**

COUNTY

**Baltimore**

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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	<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 **Shopco Inc.**

Telephone #: **484-0170**

STREET & NUMBER **c/o Leslie Pittler**

CITY, TOWN **Hilton Plaza Inn**

**Baltimore**

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
**Md, 21208**

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

**Baltimore County**

Liber #: **5310**

Folio #: **976**

STREET & NUMBER

**Towson**

CITY, TOWN

**Maryland**

STATE

**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		

Game-1990s

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

10 MAIN STREET is a Colonial-Revival frame house, two and one-half storeys high, square in plan, with a truncated pyramidal roof. It dates from ca. 1910-1920. In the late twentieth century its first storey was veneered with stone and a one storey stone-faced flat roofed addition replaced its front porch. At or about the same time a two storey flat-roofed addition was added to the rear, the west, its first storey faced with stone, its second with aluminum siding. The second storey of the original house is also faced with aluminum siding. The roof is of asbestos shingles.

On the east or front facade, two broad shallow bay windows are in the second storey, each with three 1/1 windows. Three 1/1 windows are on each side facade of the second storey and two wide dormers are in each slope of the roof, the dormers probably original but now with modern windows.

The house has most recently been used as a funeral home; it is now vacant, awaiting demolition for a shopping center.

The cellar, first and second storeys are mostly refinished with modern plywood paneling and large doorways replace the original openings; the staircase from the first to the second floors has been removed but it remains from the second to the third. Basically the original plan was one of four rooms with the staircase rising between the two northerly rooms.

The remaining portion of the original stair is entirely of oak with three turned balusters to each tread and massive paneled newels supporting a moulded handrail. The third floor plan is original, as are its details including architraves and doors. Architraves are of natural pine, three planes with cyma reversa at the inner edge.

Portions of the cellar are unfinished; the walls are of rubble stone and they appear to coincide with the structure above. Joists are circular sawn.

The BACK BUILDING behind # 10 is, in part, older than the house. Two storeys high, of frame, covered with asbestos shingles, it is in three basic parts: a shed-roofed section to the east; a middle section with a gabled roof, ridge north-south; and a westerly section with a gabled roof, ridge east-west.

Only the easterly section has a cellar, with stone walls and earth floor; joists above are circular sawn. The interior of the easterly section is fitted as a modern apartment but earlier in this century it was used as a display for caskets. It appears to date from the early twentieth century.

The middle and westerly sections of the back building date from the late 19th century, the middle section being the older. Both sections are unfinished internally, largely in their original condition. The circular-sawn braced frame structure was sheathed with straight-sawn vertical boards; former exterior walls now enclosed by the additions retain battens with beveled edges. Larger members of the frame are joined with pegged mortise-and-tendon and cut nails were used for smaller members and for the board-and-batten siding. A hand-powered elevator is noted with these painted inscriptions on its walls:

E.D. Selby	Elevator completed
Glen Morris M.D.	June 25, 1885
	Thomas O. Cook

(E.D.Selby was the grandfather of the last private owner of this property; Glen Morris was a railroad depot about where Reisterstown Lumber Co is now located) Originally the elevator was about three feet square; it is now about three by eight.

The middle section is a carriage and hearse house and the westerly section was a stable, grainery and hay barrack.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

BA-1269

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 checked="" 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

E.D.Selby

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

10 MAIN STREET is a typical example of a house type popular in the early 20th century Colonial Revival, square with a pyramidal roof. It has long been the funeral home with residence above of a family undertaking business serving the immediate community.

The BACK BUILDING is a typical stable and carriage house required to support village life in the pre-automobile era; in part predating the house this one was adapted as a storage structure for the horse-drawn, and later the motor-powered hearse. Fundamental additions provided space for other aspects of this community business-- the storage and display of caskets.

10 MAIN STREET and its abck building are awaiting demolition for a shopping center.

This property shares its earliest history with that of # 14 MAIN STREET (q.v.) They were both built on land which originally belonged to Philip Reister, son of the town's founder.

Philip Reister, Jr eventually acquired the land in 1827 from his mother Eve, widow of Philip Reister. When Philip Jr died in 1872, Philip Reister Owings, acting as executor for the estate sold the parcel to E.D.Selby (EHA 77/564-5) There was no house corresponding to the present one standing then. Selby kept only part of this lot-- that which is the site of #10. The southern part he sold off almost immediately to Henry Waggoner.

The original house ( which was later to be rebuilt several times) was existing by 1877. There is a picture of this structure taken in that year. The house then had a flat roof, was three storeys tall and the property was surrounded by a white picket fence. A sign on the front read:

Edwin Selby

Carpenter and Cabinet Maker

It was customary for coffins to be made by cabinet makers who then, usually transported the deceased to its place of burial. It was a short step, then, to becoming the undertaker. Selby's advertisement in the 1877 Hopkins Atlas reads:

Edwin D. Selby

Carpenter and Builder, Undertaker &c Prompt

Prompt attention given to funerals, and a large stock of

Coffins, Trimmings and Shrouds kept

constantly on hand.

Cabinet making and repairing.

In 1890, another photograph of the house was taken and considerable changes had taken place. The fence is gone. The porch steps extend across the entire front of the building. The straight roof line of the original building had been altered to include dormer windows on the third floor and there was now a peaked roof. (B. Frank, op cit)

Selby died in 1908 and in his will, he left all his property equally divided between his wife Cecilia and two daughters, Mary E. Tipton and Olivia S. Eline, wife

-CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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**8 Significance, continued**

of J.F. Eline (BC Wills 128/15) Eline apparently became involved with the business and took it over. The establishment became known as Elines. His widow, Olivia, devised the house to their two sons Joseph Edwin Eline and John James Eline in her will. (B C Wills 31/130) They had helped their father with the business and sought to continue it. This was 1935.

More changes to the house took place (described in the description section) as the house was brought to its present form. The front porch was enclosed. In 1956 the stonework was added to the exterior.

By 1960, J. Edwin Eline had gained the title to the property (3718/635). His brother James had relinquished his share. The Elines continued the family business in this location until 1977, and then moved to the southern part of town. The house was sold in that year to Shopco and awaits demolition for a mall.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Beryl Frank, "History is leaving 10 Main Street" Northwest Star May 19, 1977, p.B4.  
Land Records Office Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Md  
C.M. Hopkins, Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland, 1877  
also  
various photographs belonging to the Eline family

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 47 1/2 x 254'

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	James T. Wollon, Jr A.I.A. Cornelia M. Ives, Project Coordinator	DATE	August 1978
ORGANIZATION	Historic Reisterstown, Inc	TELEPHONE	833-3078 (Ms Ives)
STREET & NUMBER	430 Main Street	CITY OR TOWN	Reisterstown
CITY OR TOWN	Reisterstown	STATE	Md

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



PA 1269

Selby Funeral Home  
10 Main St - Reisterstown

Robert Dasch

8-78

East