

BA 1273

8/78

Odd Fellows Hall

Reisterstown, Maryland

Private Access

Now a shop but built as a fraternal lodge and town center, this mid-nineteenth century structure has had widespread community importance. Orienting the gable end to the street was a design device to recall the Greek-revival without associated expensive detailing.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Odd Fellow's Hall

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

56 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 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	<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

Netee and Marvin Weissfeld

Telephone #: 484-0105

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1002 Smoke Tree Road

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore, Maryland

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
21208**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County

Liber #: 5657

Folio #: 811

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE  
Maryland 21204**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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

56 MAIN STREET, originally built as a civic building in the mid-nineteenth century, is a two storey brick structure, its gable end oriented to the street, three bays in width, four bays in depth or length. The low base of a former belfry rises from the east end of the roof. The brick walls are laid in common bond, every sixth course headers. The cornice is of corbeled brick. The roof is covered with standing-seam tin. The east or street facade has been rebuilt in the first storey, the only significant change; a large bow display window is toward the south, an entrance door is near the northeast corner. Windows throughout are original 6/6 sash set in narrow bullnose frames, each with a jack arch above, one brick in height. Originally they had shutters, now all are missing. A secondary entrance is in the westerly bay of the south side. A semi-circular window is high in the east gable.

Internally a single large space is in the first storey; the second storey is similar but two small rooms are in the easterly bay. Open staircases are in the northeast and northwest corners, probably not original; the rail is supported by large square balusters and square newels with ball finials. Wall and ceiling finishes are of plaster and windows are trimmed with a two-plane beaded architrave without backband.

The attic is accessible from a hatch in the ceiling beneath the belfry at the east end. The rafters are pegged at the ridge and collar beams are dovetailed in them, fastened with cut nails. Above the original rough sheathing are wood shingles, now covered externally with standing seam tin. A ladder remains for access to the former belfry.

Several kerosene chandeliers, said to be original to the building, are preserved by the Owners, but not on these premises.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1273

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 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

1852

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The most important civic building in Resisterstown. The many functions which it has served throughout its history represent to a great extent the fabric of a community's daily activities: church, lodge, fire station, polling<sup>ing place</sup> school. Now a shop but built as a fraternal lodge and town hall, this mid-nineteenth century structure has had widespread community importance. Orienting the ~~Sagle~~ end to the street was a design device to recall the Greek-revival without associated expensive detailing.

The Hall was built in 1852 on land owned by George W. Fisher (HMF 2/433) Mr. Fisher had apparently purchased the land with the sole intent of building a Hall, for in the same year the Henry Clay Lodge, No. 81, I.O.O.F. was organized. The charter members were Abijah Miller, William Nace, H.B. Schroder, John Gies, George W. Fisher, and H.O. Devries. The hall was built for \$1500. (Scharf, p.855)

In 1854 George W. Fisher deeded the land over to the Henry Clay Lodge for the, shall we say odd?, sum of \$53.33!! The Lodge remained in this location for over fifty years. Other uses for the building during this period was as an Episcopal Church (late 1870's). Rev. Arthur John Rich, principal of Hannah More Academy, held services in the Hall as a mission point of St. Michael's Chapel situated at Hannah More. (All Saint Church, Parish Centennial, 1971. p.23) The Lutherans, also, were without a regular place of worship. They met at the Hall for eleven years 1855-1866.\* The 1876 tax ledger charged building to trustees John Gies and I. Dickson, "improvements 26 x 48, 2 stories high \$1500.00. 2 stoves. benches. carpeting \$200.00.\* (Redcay, p.10)

By 1910, the Odd Fellows no longer needed the Hall and it was sold to the Fulton Lodge No. 21 Independent Order of Mechanics (WPC 357/595) who held it for four more years. It was at this time that the building served as an Annex for the school. The Franklin High School had greatly increased its enrollment as this was the only high school in Baltimore County, serving children from many sections of this county as well as from Carroll. (Goodwin, Franklin's Century of Progress, unpagged) New buildings in addition to the old Academy building, one built in 1905; an addition in 1914 were barely keeping up.

In 1914, the Fulton Lodge sold the building to the newly formed Reisters-town Volunteer Fire Company, which was looking for a home. The town had  
[WPC 431/463]

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Continuation Sheet    Odd Fellow's Hall  
56 Main Street  
Reisterstown, Maryland  
Baltimore County

8 Significance continued

been "visited by three disastrous fires within a year (May, 1912-May, 1913)"... so several citizens organized a "Mass Meeting...in Landstreet Hall on May 9, 1913 presided over by Prof. H.H.Murphy (principal of Franklin)"(Minutes of 1st meeting reprinted in Fifty Year Commemorative Booklet, 1963.,p.1) The group decided to hold a picnic in what is now Firemen's Grove to raise money for such a Company. The first permanent officers were elected in June, 1913: S.S. Yingling, President; Arthur H. Uhler, 1st Vice-president; Walter G. Tovell, 2nd Vice-president; B.H. Gorsuch, 3rd Vice-president; J.M. Currie, Secretary; and Howard H. Russel, treasurer. At first the plans called for soliciting the school board to gain use of the unused Franklin Academy Building, but this was abandoned because of its location and the expenses of remodeling it. (Commemorative Booklet, p.4) Finally it was voted to buy the Oddfellow's Hall from the Fulton Lodge (also known as the Independent Order of Red Men). The first floor was extensively remodeled by the members and this building was in use for the next 34 years as the Fire Station.

After the War in 1945, the Company began making plans for a new fire station. The Hall was quickly becoming too crowded for the needs of the Company. With a new building under construction in 1948, the Fire Company sold the building to the Christian Science Society of Reisterstown on December 16, 1948 (TBS 1721/295). In 1949, the Society added more acreage with the purchase of property from William I. Stevenson (TBS 1764/417) Christian Science services were held in the building from late 1940's to 1970's.

In 1976 the present owners, who run a plant and pottery shop, purchased the building. (5657/811)

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Harold Redcay, Lutheranism in Resisterstown, Balto. Co., Maryland 1764-1855.  
(Reisterstown, 1955)

Louise B. Goodwin, Compiler, Franklin's Centruy of Progress, 1878-1978  
(Reisterstown, 1978) unpagued.

J. Thomas Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County, (Philadelphia, 1881)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 32' x 89' m or l

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, Jr. A.I.A.**

NAME / TITLE **Cornelia M Ives , Project Coordinator**

**August, 1978**

ORGANIZATION **Historic Reisterstown, Inc**

DATE **833-3078 (ms Ives)**

STREET & NUMBER **430 Main Street**

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN **Reisterstown,**

STATE **Md 21136**

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

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9 Bibliographical References continued

Reisterstown Volunteer Fire Company, Fifty Years Commemorative Booklet  
(Reisterstown, 1963)

Land Records, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland

All Saints Episcopal Church, Parish Centennial, 1971 Booklet. ( mimeographed, 1971)



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BA 1273

ODDFELLOWS' HALL  
56 Main St. - Reisterstown

Carol Pollack

4-77

~~West~~. East

56 Main Street