

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

209 West Chesapeake Avenue *Chapman House*

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

209 West Chesapeake Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson Bosley & Chesapeake VICINITY OF

9  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

Baltimore County

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Maryland 21204

CITY, TOWN

Towson VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 5193

Folio #: 706

STREET & NUMBER

Maryland

CITY, TOWN

Towson

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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE Jan, 1978

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This yellow clapboard frame house is two stories high with an attic. It is three bays wide, and two deep. There are two brick interior chimneys, one on the main ridge of the roof and slightly to the West side, and the other is located on the East side of the large North gable. The foundation is uncoursed stone.

The West facade exterior is two bays wide. The Northwest portion of the West facade is the side of the front porch. The porch roof is similar to a shed roof. It faces West and North. The porch gable end which faces the West side is decorated with staggered shingles. There is a 2/2 sash window on the Northwest facade, first story, which faces West. On the Southwest portion of the West facade there are three windows. The windows on the first and second stories are of regular fenestration and are 2/2 sash windows. The attic window, which is located in the West gable is smaller in size, but is also a 2/2 sash window. Around the gable there is staggered shingle work, which like the porch roof end shingling, creates a contrast to the regularity of the clapboards. There are two basement window openings, one of which has a two-paned window, and the other, the Northwest window, which has been boarded up with plywood. The South projection, which is two stories high has two smaller sized 2/2 sash windows facing West, and can be seen from the West facade.

The South facade is approximately three bays wide. On the Southwest portion of the South facade there are two windows, the one on the first and second floors are of regular fenestration, that is, 2/2 sash windows. the projection is centrally located, and is two stories high. On the other side, the Southeast side, there is a smaller one story projection which has a large single-paned window, with small 4/4 windows, one on the left, and the other on the right. Both of the projections are supported by brick piers. Above the smaller projection, there is a regular 2/2 sash window. Located above the central projection, there is a flat, shed dormer which has a smaller 2/2 attic window contained in it. On the sides of the dormer, there is regular shingle siding. The foundation, which is of considerable height on the South facade, has a door to the Southwest side, which is probably a basement opening.

The East facade is two bays wide. There are five windows, four of which are regular 2/2 sash windows, two on the first floor, and two on the second floor. The attic window, is also 2/2 sash, but is smaller in size. It is located in the Southeast gable. There are two basement windows which are built into the foundation as on the West facade. The Northeastern basement window has been boarded with plywood, and the Southeastern window is a single-paned window. A portion of the polygonal wing (swell front) is seen as part of the East facade.

The North facade is three bays wide. To the Northeast side is the polygonal wing, or swell front which is two stories high. There are three 2/2 sash windows on the first floor of the swell front, and three on the second floor, all of which have louvered shutters. Above this, in the gable is the attic window which is the smaller 2/2 sash window. The gable has deep cornices and staggered shingles. On the Northwest portion, on the first floor, a two bay wide porch which is supported

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

continued

by three rounded columns. There is a regular 2/2 sash window between the polygonal wing and the front door, facing West. There is another on the first floor facing North on the West side of the front door. The front door is located between these two windows and is on a diagonal facing Northwest. Above the single door is a rectangular four-paned transom, and on both sides of the door there are three-paned sidelights. Above the porch is a salt-box (cat slide) roof. On the roof there is a gabled dormer that has shingled siding. Around the smaller sized 2/2 sash window and within the pediment, there is staggered shingle work.

## Interior-

The kitty-corner entranceway opens into a center hall which determines the plan of the interior space. The hallway contains a closed string switch back stair on the west wall. The paneling is reeded, there are turned balusters, and a turned newel post with a ball top.

To the west of the hall is a single parlor containing a Latrobe fireplace, which appears to have a slate surround. A curved arch suggests its use for coal, and it is served by a chimney projecting 15", 51" wide.

A polygonal parlor occupies the area East of the hall. This room contains a brick, wood burning fireplace with a marble hearth. The opening is 19" deep, 34" wide and 28" high. The brick mantle rises 50" off the floor and projects 8".

It is interesting to note the extremely plain moldings and four-panel doors accentuated by hinges and plates of a floral design.

The second story has a multi-landing. The first landing breaks to the bathroom on the south end of the hallway. Contained within is a early sink and tub with porcelain fixtures and an ovolo chair rail.

The second landing leads to an area consisting of three full bedrooms and one small room used for storage in the southwest corner.

Interesting features include animal-hair plaster walls, early electrical fixtures, circular switches, push button switches, wooden conduits, metal box locks, and metal and glass knobs.

The stair to the third level is enclosed by vertical tongue-and-groove 3" wide. This level constitutes nearly a full story. It has been partitioned into a central hall with two end rooms; a larger room to the East and a small room to the West. These rooms are characterized by the odd shaped roof yielding a 52" knee-wall and trapezoidal ceiling. This area is lit by 2/2 sash windows with openings measuring 28½" wide and 53½" high. The plain moldings are 4 3/4" wide and project 3/4".

There are batten doors made with vertical tongue-and-groove.

The full basement, having uncoursed stone walls, reflects the shape of the house. There are brick piers and transverse circular sawn joists. Two windows light the basement from the east and west walls, with an entrance in the westernmost bay of the south wall.

**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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1890-1901

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This late nineteenth century house is significant for two reasons. It is significant not only for its individual architectural design, but also for its relationship with the four other late nineteenth century houses in the block, which demonstrate the variety of design during this period.

Although it may have had minor alterations on its South side, 209 Chesapeake Avenue remains intact and may be seen as representative of the Picturesque style. This is to say that the house is somewhat asymmetrical, and it incorporates a variety of contrasting textures, which are created, or example, by the evenness of the clapboards, and the sudden irregularity and staggering of shingles. The concavity of the front porch establishes a contrast to the convexity of the polygonal wing, or swell front. The front door layout is irregular in that it is on a diagonal both with the front and the sides of the house. These are examples of the organic approach to design prevalent in the late nineteenth century.

209 Chesapeake Avenue is one of the few remaining houses on a street that had been planned in the late nineteenth century. At present this block is the only row of residences between York and Bosley Avenues that is original and shows the original skyline. The five houses in the block make visible the lifestyles of the late nineteenth century through the various architectural styles. The two houses on the ends of the block show the Queen Anne style and the Picturesque style. The three central buildings in the row are representative of the colonial revival in architecture.

It is for these reasons, that it is important to preserve the existing building, and use it for practical purposes, suitable to the expanding area of Towson. It would then not only have a use to the community, but would also serve as an example of Victorian architecture and show what a fashionable block of houses and neighborhood it once was.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1915 atlas of Maryland, Baltimore County National Trust for Historic Preservation, Tony P. Wrenn and Elizabeth D. Mulloy. America's Forgotten Architecture. New York: Pantheon Books, 1976  
Williams, Henry and Ottalie K. Williams. A Guide to Old American Houses, 1700-1900. New York: A.S. Barnes, 1962.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 80'x165' irreg.

Across from the new courthouse, Towson. On the Southwest corner of Chesapeake Avenue, and Bosley Avenue, bounded by two alleys.

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

WAYNE C. NIELD, II  
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

Jane W. Andrews/Historic Towson Surveyor

1/10/78

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Goucher College

825-3300

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

box 21 Goucher College

Maryland

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Towson

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

It has been documented that Towson owes much of its character to the fact that it grew as a "19th century court house town." It was complete with a courthouse on a large green surrounded by banks, lawyers' offices, a jail and some rather fine and fashionable residences. There are some visual documents of this fact remaining, but modern development has fragmented the blocks around the square, leaving these links with the past often isolated from one another and dwarfed in scale.

The single row of houses on the south side of the 200 block of Chesapeake Avenue, however, do provide a continuous streetscape that is the last row of 19th century residences on that street inside of the loop road. Dramatically juxtaposed to the New Courts Building, they provide an opportunity to realize the more human scale that this rural town possessed until only recently. The same row of buildings also provides examples of various late 19th century architectural styles and although they are now used for offices, they demonstrate a good deal about residential activity in Towson.

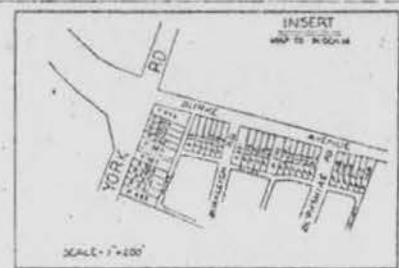
No. 203 W. Chesapeake Avenue is a rambling multi-directional building that shows the influence of the Queen Anne style. Modern siding does not offer the various textures one might expect but the tower, bay windows, polygonal projections and various shaped windows do provide the variety of forms typical of that style. In Numbers 205, 207 and 209, however, we see what was once three nearly identical houses that are not as organic in appearance. On the contrary they are much more regular in form and expressive of the classical attitude suggested by the Colonial Revival. In these buildings one sees regular fenestration, pedimented porches with slender Doric columns and each is centralized by a prominent central pediment. A curious feature found in all three is the very nice sunburst or fan-shaped design that decorates the bottom corners of the central pediment. Nicely balancing this row of buildings is No. 211 which, like its neighbor at the opposite end of the block, is more Victorian in nature. Its use of shingled gables and clapboards, the "swell front" and high fieldstone foundation are suggestive of the picturesque.

Title/Deed for 209 Chesapeake Avenue

BA-1432

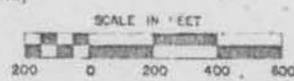
<u>Liber/Folio</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Conveyor to Conveyee</u>
5193/706	May 26, 1971	Frank Procter to Baltimore County
2439/246	February 27, 1954	Gager and Rigdon to Frank Procter
301/304	September 1, 1906	William Cole to H. Chapman
257/266	November 18, 1901	Bosley et al., to William Cole
242/468	February 23, 1900	Milton Offutt to Grafton Bosley
170/256	June 1888	Eben Hunting to Milton Offutt
153/271	October 12, 1886	Granville Wilson to Eben Hunting

W. Chesapeake Ave  
#209



BA-1432

TOWSON  
SCALE 1" = 200'



DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION  
TAX MAP DIVISION  
TOWSON, MARYLAND  
MAY 1967

MAP NO.  
70A

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MD DEPT. OF ASSESS. & TAX.



BA-1432

209 W. CHESAPEAKE AVE  
N.W. CORNER

W. NIELD

1/78



BA-1432

W. CHES.

209 W. ~~BACTO.~~ Ave.  
S.

W. M. C. D.  
1/78