

## BLUE CROSS-GABLE

Finding its roots in the central pediment the "cross-gable" is an architectural element that enjoyed particular popularity in America during most of the 19th century and at least a quarter of the 20th century. It can be found on residences, barns, stores and factories as early as the 1830's and as late as the 1930's. Studies in some sections of Maryland for this period show as many as 50% to 60% of the structures in a given area to have been cross-gables.

This town was no exception and there are at least twenty residences still standing in central Towson (Nov., 1977) to prove the fact.

The German Houses and the Chew House on the northwest corner of Shealey and Virginia Aves. are important not only as individual examples of this stylistic tradition but also as components of what was a continuous streetscape of cross-gable facades.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Blue Cross - Gable, Shealey Ave. (site) (Shealey-German House, site)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 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 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

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. New Courts Building

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE Fall, 1977
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

Demolition has begun on the North side of Shealey Ave. where five houses have already been demolished. On the North side of the street there was a continuous streetscape consisting of three cross-gables and one end-gable house, all two story frame and of the same period. A cavity was produced with the demolition of the "blue cross-gable" at # 105 Shealey Ave.

Like its immediate neighbor to the West the building was three bays wide and one deep in the main block (street facade). The building had an L-plan formed by a two bay deep, one bay wide North wing which appears to have been widened by one bay with a two story addition. A rectangular building appears on this site on both the 1877 and 1898 Atlases.

Both the main block and North wing had gable-end roofs, the addition to the North wing was shed roofed. The street facade(s) was characterized by the cross-gable and the front porch. The cross-gable was of the "added" variety (not integrated into the eaves) and was vented by a four-light round arch window. The porch covered the first story along the full length of the facade. It was supported by turned columns.

The fenestration was regular throughout the building for the main block and the North wing windows were a tall 2/2 sash; they were smaller in the addition. Round arch windows vented the end gables and central gable.

By the centrally located entrance it is judged that the house had a center hall plan. A flue-chimney exited the roof at the ridge just West of the center. The house appears to have had a full cellar constructed of stone.

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 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building was significant for two reasons. As a type, that is a two story frame cross-gable, it was an example of a kind of house that was quite common in rural 19th century towns. It had further significance on Shealey Ave. for the part it played in maintaining the continuity of a 19th century streetscape.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attachment

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

WAYNE L. NIELD, II  
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

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

## TITLE SEARCH for GERMAN HOUSE #105 SHEALEY AVE.

Liber 5720, Folio 891 January 27, 1977  
 Grantor: David W. Irely & Theodore Coleman  
 Grantee: Josef of Vienna, Inc.

"Beginning...north side of Shealey Ave. 20' wide...reversely on said second line...East 111.13' to place of beginning."

Liber 5269, Folio 551 May 19, 1972  
 Grantor: Michael R. Deutschman & Irvan I Trupp, Trustees  
 Grantee: Towson Associates

Liber 4100, Folio 493 January 16, 1963  
 Grantor: Towson Building Co., Inc.  
 Grantee: William L. Gaehl

Liber 3792, Folio 260 December 15, 1960  
 Grantor: Marion M Stryker & Goss L. Stryker  
 Grantee: Towson Building Co.

Liber 3442, Folio 200 October 31, 1958  
 Grantor: Lillian A. Kelly  
 Grantee: Marion M Stryker.

"Beginning...distance 335.3' on south... East 24 perches...located north side of a road...20' in width...100'...beginning."

Liber 2154, Folio 176 August 1, 1952  
 Grantor: LeRoy Y. Haile, Executor  
 Grantee: Marion M Kaufman

"by authority...LeRoy Haile under...Will....did sell at public sale May 16, 1952 to Marion M. Kaufman

Will- Liber 44, Folio 174 Gertrude Smith Moreton left estate to LeRoy Y. Haile, Executor with full power of sale.

Liber 1118, Folio 402 January 13, 1941  
 Grantor: Laura Augusta German  
 Grantee: Gertrude M. Moreton

"...comprising lot # 11 and # 12 on the Plat# 1, Folio 132 of the estate of Mrs. Mary A. Shealey."

Liber 132, Folio 471 January 22, 1883  
 Grantor: John T. Morris et.al. Receivers  
 Grantee: Andrew J. German