

Beckley House

Reisterstown, Maryland

Private Access

Originally dating from the late eighteenth century, 202 MAIN STREET is one of the oldest structures in Reisterstown and also one of the most visible, being very close to the street where it makes a sharp double turn around this structure. Remaining portions of original work indicate substance and sophistication. The original shed form of the west (kitchen) wing is typical of the region. The south addition extended the original form, but with traditional, contemporary detailing. Its separate entrance indicates a separate function. The small south wing probably housed an early trade shop related to the larger adjacent structure.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Beckley House
 AND/OR COMMON John Reister, Sr. House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 202 Main Street
 CITY, TOWN Reisterstown VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6th
 STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore County

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 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 Greenspring Realty, Inc. c/o Mr. J. Temple Smith, St. Telephone #: 833-1221
 STREET & NUMBER 143 Main Street
 CITY, TOWN Reisterstown VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Md. 21138

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, County Courts Building Liber #: 5457
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Folio #: 813
 STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Avenue
 CITY, TOWN Towson STATE Md. 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Maryland Historic Sites Survey: Baltimore County
 DATE Entered in 3/20/68 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust
 21 State Circle
 CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Md 21401

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		

 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Beckley House is of brick, 2-½ stories high in the main block, with a small one-story extension on the south end and a two-story west wing parallel to Cockeys Mill Road. The main block is 5 bays wide and only one dormer survives.

The main block was apparently built in two stages; a three-bay house came first, followed by a two-bay house immediately to the south. There are two distinct styles present.

The first-story bays on the roadside have passed through a history of changes to adapt the building to various business uses. At present there is a formal door with small window lights set in the center bay. The southernmost bay contains another door, now without a formal frame. The center entrance is flanked by pairs of windows in white wooden frames. Window lights in these flanking windows are large sheets of glass, four per window. Second-story windows are possibly originals, double-hung sash types with 6-on 6 lights.

The best Georgian features of the house are the covered end-chimneys. At the south end of the main block is an inside chimney with three flues sheltered by brick arches. At the north end there is a double inside end-chimney, with two flues in each part, also topped by brick arches. On the south end, two small 4-on-4 sash windows flank the single chimney at attic level.

On the north, the double chimneys flank a single attic window of the same type. The north end wall of the main block contains but three bays, and provides only three windows and two doors--one which is the entrance to the Ski Shop.

The roof is ribbed sheet-metal, and the end rafters are flush with the brick wall. On the main facade, a box cornice and frieze extends across three bays--the store section. The two-bay segment has a corbelled brick cornice.

The one-story southern extension has a center chimney with a bricked arch. The facade here is four bays--all openings boarded up--two windows and two wide doors. Its dimensions match the smith's shop of 1798 in length along Main Street but not in depth.

The back building is flush with the north wall of the main block and is two bays long, two stories high, sheltered by a sheet-metal roof. The rear end wall has but one window, that in the second story. A square chimney rises from the northwest corner. This rear portion, 15 by 26 -7/12 feet comes fairly close to the 29 x 14 foot brick dwelling portion found on the 1798 tax list.

The Beckley House is a fairly plain form of Georgian or Federal

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

The brick house numbered 202 on the west side of Main Street in Reisterstown and located just south of Cockey's Mill Road and just east of the first settlers' cemetery looks a bit like one of the many roadside inns that dotted the old Turnpike. However, at least a portion of it was built as a dwelling by John Reister, Sr. in 1779 and its only use as a place of public accomodation occurred in the 20th Century when it served as an ice cream parlor. Other enterprises had been carried on in outbuildings on this property, and it along with 143 Main Street, might well be designated as shrines of small business, were such distinctions awarded for premises where commerce was in progress from Revolutionary times through the present.

John Reister (1715-1804) was virtually founder of the town that now bears his name, although two towns once could be identified in this string-like village, with all the settlement north of Reister's holdings being known as Washington and presided over by a rival pioneer, Daniel Bower. Reisters had immigrated to Baltimore County from Germany in 1757. He is recorded to have been granted an ordinary (tavern keeper's) license in 1762. The Reister Tavern continued for decades; raw material for sale was produced on the east side of the main road in a still owned by John Reister, Jr. Several historians have identified the numerous roadside inns, stock yards, and taverns of the Resiterstown Turnpike.

The house bears a datestone of 1779--possibly ex post facto--and in 1786, John Reister conveyed the house to his son-in-law, John Beckley, a blacksmith. (1) The 1798 tax list showed Beckley with part of the tract "Reister's Desire" and the following structures:

one brick dwelling house, two stories	29 by 14 feet
one brick kitchen	15 by 15
one brick smith's shop	24 by 18
one brick milk house, one story	10 by 10 feet

As related in the Reister genealogy, John Beckley was probably born in 1756 of German immigrant parents who lived at or near Manchester in present Carroll County, then within Pipe Creek Hundred of Baltimore County. Beckley was a trained smith and he took over the forge established prior to 1775 by John Reister. Beckley and Mary (or Polly) Reister were married in 1783. Other records show that John Bockly was among those who registered

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. B.C. Deeds, WG No. Z, f. 369 (Hall of Records, Annapolis)
2. Lillian Bayly Marks, Reister's Desire (Baltimore, 1975), p. 65.
3. Marks, Reister's Desire, p. 65.
4. Marks, pp. 66-67.
5. B.C. Inventories, OPM 9, f. 560 (Hall of Records)
6. Maryland Writers' Project, Maryland, A Guide to the Old Line State, New York, CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.54

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. and

NAME / TITLE **John McGrain Executive Secretary Landmarks Preservation Commission**

ORGANIZATION Baltimore County Office of Planning & Zoning	DATE August 8, 1977
--	----------------------------

STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Avenue	TELEPHONE 494-3495
--	---------------------------

CITY OR TOWN Towson	STATE Md 21204
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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

B4-164
Beckley House
John Reister, Sr. House
202 Main Street
Reisterstown, Maryland
Baltimore County

7 Description continued

architecture, possibly modified by the taste of its German builders. The main changes over the years seem to have been alterations to put in a store front and the loss of old front porches and changes and reorganizations in the rear--including the loss of a summer kitchen. The marble 1779 date stone in the northeast corner (set in front wall) may have been added as an afterthought.

John McGrain

202 MAIN STREET is a two storey brick house of three sections. Closely oriented to the street and facing east, the northerly three bays are the original, together with the two bay two storey rear wing which extends flush and continuous with the north end. With Flemish bond front, this section dates from the late eighteenth century. Early in the 19th century, two bays were added to the south end of the original three, the common bond brickwork, brick cornice and narrow window frames, indicating the late date. Extending further to the south is a four-bay one storey brick wing, probably dating from the first half of the nineteenth century. The interior of this structure was not accessible for inspection.

A water table is somewhat above the first floor line in original sections of the wall. Second storey windows of the original sections are 6/6, with wide frames, probably original. Rubbed and gauged jack arches, one tall brick in height (three courses) are above. The principal entrance is in the southerly bay of this section, a wide opening containing a modern glazed door. A modern display window is north of the entrance. The brick walls north of this window, to the north of the middle second storey window, and extending around the northeast corner, have been reconstructed of original brick in common bond, the result of a truck's colliding with this building in the mid-twentieth century. A pair of flush chimneys each with two arched flues rises above the north gable. The north wall of the rear wing is flush and continuous with the north wall of the main structure, indicating simultaneous construction. A massive square chimney rises flush with the northwest corner of the rear wing. The wing now has a gabled roof but faint traces in the brickwork of the west gable indicate that the northerly eave was once the top of the taller wall under a shed roof.

Another entrance is in the southerly bay of the early two-bay addition; two 6/6 windows with narrow frames are above in the second storey and a jack arch above a larger display window in the first storey indicates an earlier window matching its counterpart above. A single dormer is in the roof near the south end and a single flush chimney with three arched flues rises above the south gable.

The outer bays of the one storey south wing contain windows, now boarded up. The two middle bays each contain a door; that to the north being somewhat wider; these openings are also boarded up. A single flue brick chimney rises from the middle of this wing.

James Wollon, Jr

Beckley House
John Reister, Sr. House
202 Main Street
Reisterstown, Maryland
Baltimore County

8 Significance Continued page 1

for military duty in 1794. (2)

This, the first of two John Beckleys, died in 1806 at 50 years 9 months. Lillian Bayly Marks in her family genealogy reconstructs the dwelling from available inventories:

The Beckley house was simply though adequately furnished for the times. On the main floor, heated by a stove (value \$8.00), were a walnut table and desk, another table, a candlestand, books, 15 chairs and a folding (drop-leaf [?]) table. Dining appointments included two table clothes, plates, dishes, teaware, pewter ware, decanters with tumblers and a cutting (knife) box. In upstairs bedrooms were chests, two looking glasses, bedsteads, one with a sacking bottom, a smaller bedstead, underbed, bedding consisting of quilts and one fine and 10 coarse sheets, two spinning wheels with reel and a clothes brush. Outbuildings contained John Beckley's blacksmith tools and iron and assorted gardening equipment. Livestock consisted of a cow and a sow with pigs. John Beckley used spectacles, had a razor and owned a pair of knee buckles.

(3)

Among John Beckley's six children was John Beckley of John. This second John Beckley was also a smith and took over his father's shop at age 18; he prospered and acquired other acres in town. During the War of 1812, he served as sergeant in Captain Jeremiah Ducker's Seventh Baltimore County Regiment of militia. On the death of his mother, Polly Reister, he was faced with bringing up his minor brothers and sisters. In 1819, he journeyed to Indiana to visit his kinsmen, the Wiests, and Mrs. Marks speculates that it was on this journey to the exotic West that Beckley acquired the seeds of the old Kentucky coffee trees that grew on the Main Street grounds. Beckley also subscribed to the building of Saint John's Episcopal Church in Worthington Valley and served on the board of the High German Lutheran Church in Reisterstown (1820, 1821).

John Beckley married Urith Geary of Reisterstown in 1827 and bought out the interests of his brothers and sisters in the house at 202 Main Street. Mrs. Marks reports that he later enlarged the house. His first wife died in 1830 and he married Juliann Gore in 1832. The next year he gave up smithing and turned to farming. Jacob Reister took over the forge and operated until 1852, succeeded by a neighbor, James Warren.(4)

Dr. Isaac Dickson recorded in 1869 that John Beckley had become blind but was otherwise healthy. He died at age 82 in 1871, and his personal inventory included a ten-plate stove, eight-day clock, 1 pair of stellyards, 2 small spinning wheels, 3 Venetian blinds, 1 old horse wagon, 1 old sleigh, 1 grindstone, 1 old wheat fan, plow gears, tent, and a cow. (5)

His real estate included the half-acre lot in Reisterstown, with a two-story brick house, dairy, cow house, and barn. The Rev. John P. Dean, an Episcopal minister and husband of Margaret Beckley, bought the house and lived there until his death in 1904. The court-appointed trustees advertised the house with a one-story barber shop and other necessary outbuildings

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Continuation Sheet Beckley House
John Reister, Sr. House
202 Main Street
Reisterstown, Maryland
Baltimore County

8 Significance continued page 2

in the Democrat and Journal before a public sale held on August 19, 1905. A plat in Judicial Liber WPC 204:349 shows the Dean lot and the bed of the turnpike. Fanny S. Naylor was highest bidder. Not long after, George F. Naylor advertised his ice cream parlor opposite the Central Hotel in the Maryland Monthly Magazine of July 1906.

The 1918 tax ledger of District 4 (f.358) charged Naylor with a house 32 by 42 feet with an extension of 26 by 26 feet--dimensions at variance with those of 1798. George Naylor died in 1929, and his daughter, Mrs. Christine N. Jones retained the house until three years ago. The ice cream business was continued by William Shaeffer for several decades using the Naylor brandname. Patrons were able to enjoy home-made ice cream at marble-topped tables while seated on twisted wire chairs. These fixtures -- no longer present--were the original equipment rather than a concession to what in recent years has been called nostalgia.

The exposed location at the bend in the road--some 6 inches from the right of way--has resulted in a number of accidents, and at least one fatality, wherein trucks have crashed into the building or grazed the northeast corner. Recently, steel posts have been put up to slow down trucks that may go out of control in some future mishap. The main road had been passable to vehicles from about 1737, but when a turnpike was chartered by the General Assembly and a survey performed in 1787, the squeeze through this already established town was very tight and the route which had been straight as an arrow out from Baltimore Town had to bend around existing structures such as Mediar's Yellow Tavern and the Reister buildings, and the string of houses belonging to Daniel Bower, and around other taverns near the junction with Westminster Road.

The State guidebook issued by the Maryland Writers' Project in 1940 gave this site the title "Beckley's Blacksmith shop and the Polly Reister House". (6) When an adjoining lot to the south was leased by H.H. Gore to Louis Stumpf in 1877, the recorded conveyance stipulated that "Stumpf will not set up a blacksmith shop". (7)

The house passed to Greenspring Realty, Inc. in 1976 and the deed contains a restriction that the house will not be demolished except under a formal order of condemnation. The owners intend to preserve the house. A ski shop was opened in the former ice cream parlor in 1976 by Jerry Brown. The shop decor features exposed hand-hewn rafters on the first floor (the original timbers).

B+164

Continuation Sheet

Beckley House
John Reister, Sr. House
202 Main Street
Reisterstown, Maryland
Baltimore County

9 Bibliographical References continued

1940), p.500.

B.C. Deeds, JB 101, f. 404 (Towson).

10-15-485

MACT #030112104

BALTIMORE COUNTY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
 HISTORIC Beckley House BA-164
 AND/OR COMMON (GREENSPRING SP. HOUSE)

2 LOCATION
 STREET & NUMBER 202 Main Street 4th ELECTION DISTRICT
REISTERSTOWN QUADRANGLE
 CITY, TOWN Reisterstown 3rd Councilmanic District
 STATE Maryland CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
6th Congressional District
 COUNTY Baltimore County

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 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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

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 NAME Greenspring Realty, Inc. c/o Mr. J. Temple Smith, Sr.
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Folio #: 813
 STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Avenue
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6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE MARYLAND HISTORIC SITES SURVEY: BALTIMORE COUNTY
 DATE BEING SINCE 1964 BECKLEY HOUSE Intd 3/20/68 _FEDERAL STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 21 State Circle
 CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE
Md. 21101

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<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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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

ROAD MILL COCKS

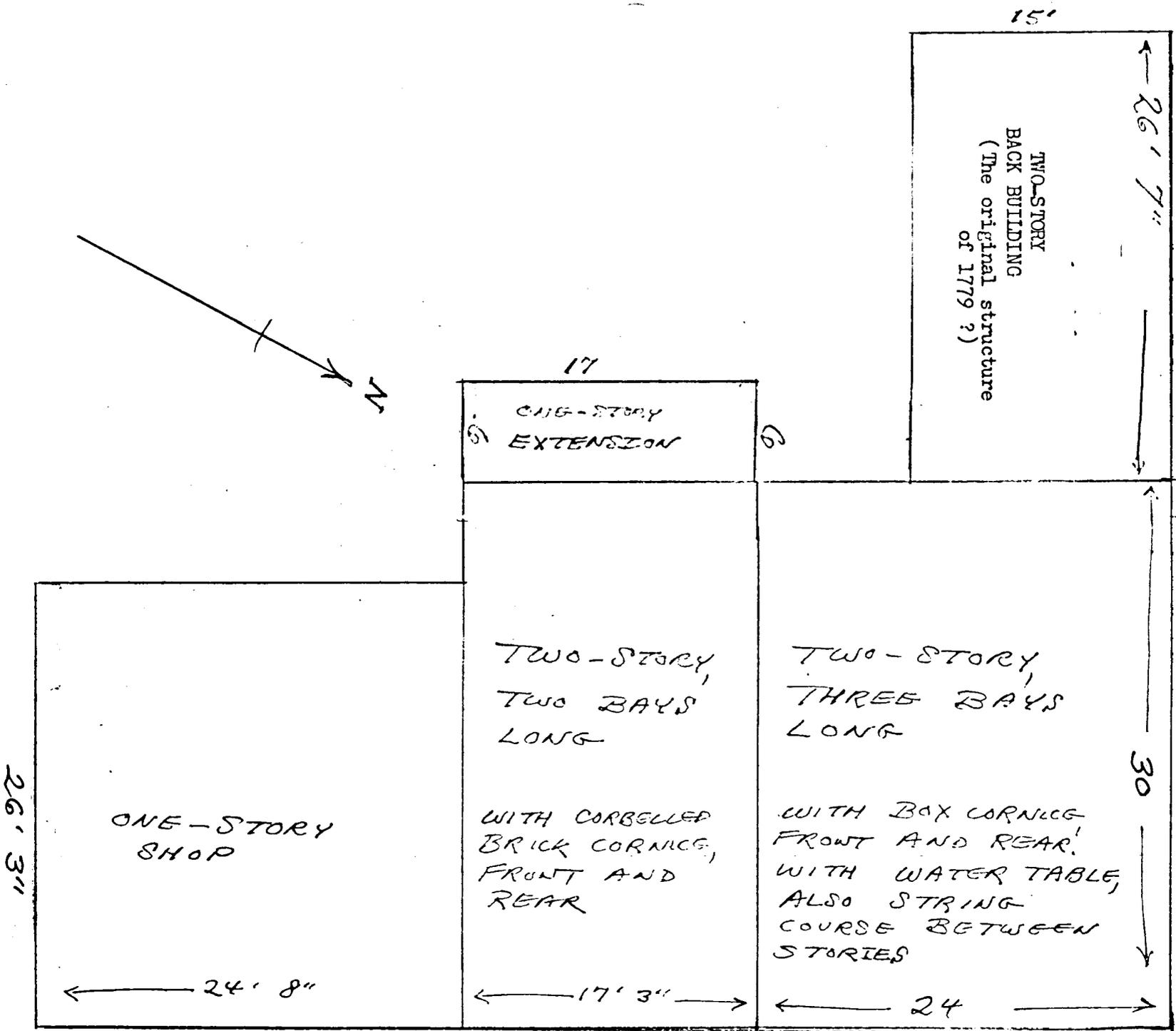
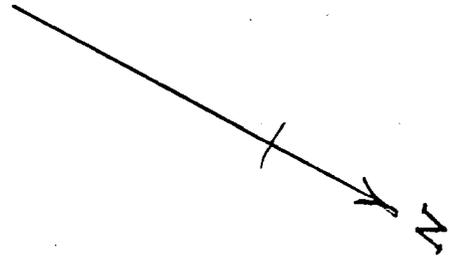
TWO-STORY
BACK BUILDING
(The original structure
of 1779 ?)

TWO-STORY,
THREE BAYS
LONG
WITH BOX CORNIC
FRONT AND REAR!
WITH WATER TABLE,
ALSO STRING
COURSE BETWEEN
STORIES

17
ONE-STORY
EXTENSION
TWO-STORY,
TWO BAYS
LONG
WITH CORBELLED
BRICK CORNIC,
FRONT AND
REAR

ONE-STORY
SHOP
26' 3"

MAIN STREET



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
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SPECIFIC DATES 1779

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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| one brick smith's shop | 24 by 18 |
| one brick milk house, one story | 10 by 10 feet. |

As related in the Reister genealogy, John Beckley was probably born in 1756 of German immigrant parents who lived at or near Manchester in present Carroll County, then within Pipe Creek Hundred of Baltimore County. Beckley was a trained smith and he took over the forge established prior to 1775 by John Reister. Beckley and Mary (or Polly) Reister were married in 1783. Other records show that John Beckley was among those who registered for military duty in 1794. (2)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

This, the first of two John Beckleys, died in 1806 at 50 years 9 months. Lillian Bayly Marks in her family genealogy reconstructs the dwelling from available inventories:

The Beckley house was simply though adequately furnished for the times. On the main floor, heated by a stove (value \$8.00), were a walnut table and desk, another table, a candlestand, books, 15 chairs and a folding (drop-leaf [?]) table. Dining appointments included two table clothes, plates, dishes, teaware, pewter ware, decanters with tumblers and a cutting (knife) box. In upstairs bedrooms were chests, two looking glasses, bedsteads, one with a sacking bottom, a smaller bedstead, underbed, bedding consisting of quilts and one fine and 10 coarse sheets, two spinning wheels with reel and a clothes brush. Outbuildings contained John Beckley's blacksmith tools and iron and assorted gardening equipment. Livestock consisted of a cow and a sow with pigs. John Beckley used spectacles, had a razor and owned a pair of knee buckles.

(3)

Among John Beckley's six children was John Beckley of John. This second John Beckley was also a smith and took over his father's shop at age 18; he prospered and acquired other acres in town. During the War of 1812, he served as sergeant in Captain Jeremiah Ducker's Seventh Baltimore County Regiment of militia. On the death of his mother, Polly Reister, he was faced with bringing up his minor brothers and sisters. In 1819, he journeyed to Indiana to visit his kinsmen, the Wiests, and Mrs. Marks speculates that it was on this journey to the exotic West that Beckley acquired the seeds of the old Kentucky coffee trees that grew on the Main Street grounds. Beckley also subscribed to the building of Saint John's Episcopal Church in Worthington Valley and served on the board of the High German Lutheran Church in Reisterstown (1820, 1821).

John Beckley married Urith Geary of Reisterstown in 1827 and bought out the interests of his brothers and sisters in the house at 202 Main Street. Mrs. Marks reports that he later enlarged the house. His first wife died in 1830 and he married Juliann Gore in 1832. The next year he gave up smithing and turned to farming. Jacob Reister took over the forge and operated until 1852, succeeded by a neighbor, James Warren. (4)

Dr. Isaac Dickson recorded in 1869 that John Beckley had become blind but was otherwise healthy. He died at age 82 in 1871, and his personal inventory included a ten-plate stove, eight-day clock, 1 pair of steelyards, 2 small spinning wheels, 3 Venetian blinds, 1 old horse wagon, 1 old sleigh, 1 grindstone, 1 old wheat fan, plow gears, tent, and a cow. (5)

His real estate included the half-acre lot in Reisterstown, with a two-story brick house, dairy, cow house, and barn. The Rev. John P. Dean, an Episcopal minister and husband of Margaret Beckley, bought the house and lived there until his death in 1904. The court-appointed trustees advertised the house with a one-story barber shop and other necessary outbuildings in the Democrat and Journal before a public sale held on August 19, 1905. A plat in Judicial Liber WPC 204:349 shows the Dean lot and the bed of the turnpike. Fanny S. Naylor was highest bidder. Not long after, George F. Naylor advertised his ice cream parlor opposite the Central Hotel in the Maryland Monthly Magazine of July 1906.

The 1918 tax ledger of District 4 (f. 358) charged Naylor with a house 32 by 42 feet with an extension of 26 by 26 feet--dimensions at variance with those of 1798. George Naylor died in 1929, and his daughter, Mrs. Christine N. Jones retained the house until three years ago. The ice cream business was continued by William Shaeffer for several decades using the Naylor brandname. Patrons were able to enjoy home-made ice cream at marble-topped tables while seated on twisted wire chairs. These fixtures--no longer present--were the original equipment rather than a concession to what in recent years has been called nostalgia.

The exposed location at the bend in the road--some 6 inches from the right of way--has resulted in a number of accidents, and at least one fatality, wherein trucks have crashed into the building or grazed the northeast corner. Recently, steel posts have been put up to slow down trucks that may go out of control in some future mishap. The main road had been passable to vehicles from about 1737, but when a turnpike was chartered by the General Assembly and a survey performed in 1787, the squeeze through this already established town was very tight and the route which had been straight as an arrow out from Baltimore Town had to bend around existing structures such as Mediard's Yellow Tavern and the Reister buildings, and the string of houses belonging to Daniel Bower, and around other taverns near the junction with Westminster Road.

The State guidebook issued by the Maryland Writers' Project in 1940 gave this site the title "Beckley's Blacksmith shop and the Polly Reister House." (6) When an adjoining lot to the south was leased by H.H. Gore to Louis Stumpf in 1877, the recorded conveyance stipulated that "Stumpf will not set up a blacksmith shop." (7)

The house passed to Greenspring Realty, Inc. in 1976 and the deed contains a restriction that the house will not be demolished except under a formal order of condemnation. The owners intend to preserve the house. A ski shop was opened in the former ice cream parlor in 1976 by Jerry Brown. The shop decor features exposed hand-hewn rafters on the first floor (the original timbers).

Notes:

1. B.C. Deeds, WG No. Z, f. 369 (Hall of Records, Annapolis)
2. Lillian Bayly Marks, Reister's Desire (Baltimore, 1975), p. 65.
3. Marks, Reister's Desire, p. 65.
4. Marks, pp. 66-67.
5. B.C. Inventories, OPI 9, f. 560 (Hall of Records)
6. Maryland Writers' Project, Maryland, A Guide to the Old Line State (New York, 1940), p. 500.
7. B.C. Deeds, JB 101, f. 404 (Towson).

MAJOR GEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lillian Marks, Reister's Desire (Baltimore, 1975)pp. 65-67.

CONTINUE SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY 0.54

VERBAL DESCRIPTION

LIST STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE MD COUNTY none

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE McGrain, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

ORGANIZATION ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY Office of Planning and Zoning

DATE August 8, 1977

STREET & NUMBER 1505 Gosley Avenue

TELEPHONE 494-3495

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis

STATE MD. 21204

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.

RETURNED: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

03065431

1. STATE Maryland
 COUNTY Baltimore Co.
 TOWN Reisterstown VICINITY Dist. IV
 STREET NO. 202 Main St.

ORIGINAL OWNER John Reister, Sr.
 ORIGINAL USE Inn
 PRESENT OWNER
 PRESENT USE Ice Cream Parlor
 WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick
 NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY 164
 INVENTORY BA #5

2. NAME
 DATE OR PERIOD 1779
 STYLE
 ARCHITECT
 BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

The house was built by John Reister, Sr. and used as an inn. Later he gave the property to his son-in-law John Beckley, who continued to conduct an inn there for many years. Beckley was also reported to be the village blacksmith. A small one story building adjoining the larger house probably was his shop.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

Baltimore Co. Hist. Soc.
 Agriculture Bldg.
 Texas, Md.

DATE OF RECORD March 20, 1968

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



BA 164

Beckley House

202 main St - Reist. Md

Carol Pollack

4-77

East