

BA-166

8/78

Reister-Larsh House

Reisterstown, Maryland

Private Access

234 MAIN STREET is a two storey, log house originally dating from the late eighteenth century. It is identified on the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records and is one of the oldest structures in Reisterstown. The south addition, also of log, dates from the very early nineteenth century as does most of the interior finish and details.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC **Reister-Larsh House**

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

234 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 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 checked="" 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

John W. Horsham

Telephone #: **833-1444 (business)**

STREET & NUMBER

234 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21136

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County

Liber #: **5523**

Folio #: **27**

STREET & NUMBER

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 DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

234 MAIN STREET is a two storey log house facing the street to the east, with a lower two storey kitchen wing extending behind the northerly end; exterior walls are covered with beaded weatherboarding. The three northerly bays are the originals and the two southerly bays, also of log construction, were added at an early date. The original structure, measuring approximately 20 by 24½ feet dates from very early in the nineteenth century)

The addition, measuring approximately 20 by 17½ feet, may date from the period ca. 1810-1820, the date of this dwelling's interior finish and details. The kitchen wing measures approximately 13 by 16.

The original southeast corner board marks the joint on the east facade between the original house and the south addition and the simple boxed cornice is also extended from this point. All windows are 6/6 except those of the addition's first storey which are 9/6, and all have louvred blinds hung on slip-joint parliament hinges. The door in the center bay dates from the late nineteenth century but its location is original, at least to the period of the addition and interior finish -- and probably original to the original construction; the upper two of its four panels are arched and all panels are framed with a bolection moulding. All openings are trimmed with an architrave surround having an applied backhand -- the same cyma-recta-with-astrigal used internally; a modern architrave surround has been added to the original at the door.

Interior end chimneys of brick rise at each end of the simple gabled roof and the stuccoed kitchen chimney rises externally at the west end of that wing's perpendicular shed roof.

A stair hall extends through the middle bay of the house -- the southerly bay of the original section. A single room is on either side.

The stair rises straight against the south wall of the hall, with several winders at the top. Its moulded rail is supported by chamfered square newels and rectangular balusters above a closed stringer. Doors have six fully raised panels with narrow loose cyma reversa-with-astrigal panel mouldings; panels on the reverse side are flat and stiles and rails are edged with a simple bead. Doors and windows are trimmed with an architrave surround like that used externally, having an applied cyma-recta-with-astrigal backband. All spaces have a beaded chair rail with a double beaded cap. The mantel in the northerly room, dating from the mid or late nineteenth century, has plain pilasters supporting a plain frieze. The southerly mantel appears original to the interior of the dwelling, having an architrave surround supporting a frieze with end and center blocks with oval panels, a bedmoulding and a shelf.

In the rear wing is a large fireplace. Modern brick has been applied to the face of the chimney but the original firebox remains behind, the iron crane still in place. An arch in the back wall of the firebox, near

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-166

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Local history

SPECIFIC DATES **early 1800's**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A two storey log house originally dating from the late eighteenth century or very early in the nineteenth century and one of the oldest structures in Reisterstown. The south addition, also of log, dates from the very early nineteenth century as does most of the interior finish and details.

The land was part of the original Reister's Desire tract owned by John Reister I. In 1781, he conveyed about 3/4 of an acre to his son Philip and five years later, he deeded 1 3/4 acre more land. The second deed mentions houses... (WG No.G 1781-82;97-98 and WG No.Z 1786-87;367-69). Dr. Dickson reports in his history of early Reisterstown that "on this lot... Mr. John Reister built three log houses, together with a kitchen behind, all of which he rented to an Englishman Mr. Murray, but... afterwards he deeded his property to his son Philip. (Dickson op.cit., p. 6)

Philip probably had been living on this property even before he purchased it from John. It seemed to be the Reister custom to have the children build or occupy houses on his land when they married, and then eventually to deed them the land at a later date. (Marks op.cit., p. 41 note) Philip had married Eve Gardner in 1773. He had served in the Revolutionary War as first lieutenant and later (Aug. 1777) was commissioned as captain in Capt. Nathaniel Stinchcomb's company, Soldier's Delight Battalion of Baltimore County Militia. In 1778, with his father and brother he took the Oath of Fidelity to the new government. By 1781, then, it would appear that he was ready to settle down. He had six children by that time and he devoted most of his time to managing the tavern (inn) founded by his father. He also farmed.

He died in 1792 and he was only 42. Sixteen days later his last child, a daughter named Susan, was born. Not long after this Eve moved from this property adjoining the inn to some other land close by the Westminster Turnpike. She apparently rented out the previous home to kin, the Larshes, for an entry in the 1798 Assessment reads:

No. 3234 Owner, Eve Ryster, Occupant, Abraham Larsh, Part of Brotherly Love. One old Log Dwelling House one story, 56 x 18, by addition of Shed one story, 56 x 6. One log house one story, 20 x 14. 2 acres, 120 perches. Valuation \$110.00

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Marks, Lillian B., Reister's Desire (Baltimore, 1975).

Dickson, Isaac N., Early Days of Reisterstown and Vicinity (Kiwanis Club of Reisterstown, 1945, published locally).

Land Records, Baltimore County, Towson, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .30 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

STATE	COUNTY
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE **James T. Wollon, Jr A.I.A.**
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, Md 21136

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

7. Description, continued

the northwest corner, was an opening to an oven, now removed. Square recesses are in each side of the firebox. A back stair formerly rose enclosed in the northeast corner of the kitchen.

The second storey is similar but with simpler detailing. Architraves have ovolo backbands; doors are of vertical boards. Both principal rooms have fireplaces with architrave mantels, that of the south room having a plain frieze and bedmoulding supporting the shelf. A shallow closet was east of the south chimney, now removed; it had shelves on either side of the door and a strip with hanging pegs. Similar hanging strips are high on the east wall. The hewn ceiling joists are exposed in the northerly room but they were lathed and plastered. Some lath is exposed in the south room, handsplit, fastened with cut nails. The floor of the south room has been lowered in recent years by about six inches.

The unfinished attic is accessible by a stair enclosed with early boarding. The floor is fastened with wrought iron nails as are the gable studs and diagonal wind bracing at each end on the undersides of the rafters. Rafters are hewn oak, joined at the top with a pegged mortise and tenon joint. In the top log of the original south wall are the mortises for the original studs of the south gable. Rafters above each section appear uniform and the pair immediately above the original south gable shows no evidence of the gable studs; apparently the entire roof structure dates from the period of the addition.

Logs of the original south wall are exposed in the attic stairway, their old whitewash covering indicating the original interior finish of this early dwelling.

A cellar is beneath the south addition; first floor joists of both sections are logs.

A one storey porch, now enclosed, extends along the south wall of the kitchen.

8. Significance, continued

It is not clear if these structures were torn down to build the current building or if Abraham Larsh in some way incorporated them into the building which was almost certainly constructed about this time.

Eventually Eve sold the property to John Sumwalt (WG No. 131;466-468) in 1815. (Marks, op.cit. p. 72-73) Sumwalt, who had married into the Reister family was a prosperous tanner. He had been able to buy up much of the Reister property, and by 1815 held title to most of Reister's Desire on the west side of the turnpike including the Reister Inn. (Marks, op.cit. p. 55) He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1820. He deeded a piece of his land to the trustees of the High German Lutheran Church for a cemetery. He sold another piece to the trustees of the school on Cockey's Mill Road for a school house. (WG No. 175;671 & No. 180;415) He built and lived in a fine brick house which he deeded to the Methodist Church for

Continuation sheet: ^{B7-166} 234 Main Street
Item Number 8, Page 2

8. Significance, continued

a parsonage (# 406 Main). He died in 1847 and his extensive estate was divided up among his heirs.

In 1861, Samuel H. Tagart was appointed a trustee for the estate and he auctioned off the land. It must have been a happy day when Lots 2-3-4 (comprising the property under discussion) were purchased for \$2,040. by none other than Susan Reister's husband, William Whelan, who had, by 1860, decided to retire from his farm outside of town. He bought the house on the site where his wife had been born. (GHC 34/206).

Two years later Whelan purchased 60 more acres adjoining this piece (GHC 36/271). In 1864, he died intestate and his sons-in-law, Elias Stocksdale and Henry H. Gore were appointed administrators. They divided the estate into thirds; 1/3 to Susan (most likely her home); 1/3 to a daughter Ann Rebecca Gore (wife of Henry) and the last 1/3 to two grandchildren and wards (children of a deceased daughter Martha). After a while, Susan leased her property to her two sons-in-law. She died in 1882, and willed her house and estate to Ann Rebecca Gore.

When Ann died she willed it to her sole heir Rebecca J. Stocksdale, a niece. (Marks op. cit., p. 81)

Miss Jane, as she was findly called by local residents, lived in #234 for many many years. She died in 1938 and her estate was willed to several cousins. One of them, John T. Whelan sold #234 to Bernard J. and Joseph P. Medairy in 1959 (WJR 3620/66)

The Medairys sold the house in 1963 to Ruth Rodgers (RRG 4239/093 and RRG 4161/597).

Ruth Rodgers deeded it to Jacques and Helene Morin in 1970 (OTG 5084/362)

By 1975, the present owners had purchased the house. It serves as a residence and an antique shop.

Sources used:

Marks, Lillian B. Reister's Desire (Baltimore, 1975).
Dickson, Isaac N., Early Days of Reisterstown and Vicinity (Kiwanis Club of Reisterstown, 1945, published locally).

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore TOWN Reisterstown VICINITY Dist. IV STREET NO. 234 Main Street		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY BA-100	
ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES		2. NAME #234 Main Street DATE OR PERIOD before 1770 STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		OPEN TO PUBLIC	
<p>A two-story frame dwelling built by John Reister, Sr. Of log construction, covered with clapboard. Random width floors and fireplace in each room -- open hearth in kitchen. Located on "Reister's Desire" patented by John Reister in 1758. Used as a tavern for many years, converted to a house in 1808 -- changed hands many times.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(second HABS report) E. Frances Offutt HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY March 20, 1968</p>			
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	
		DATE OF RECORD	

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

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore Co. TOWN Reisterstown VICINITY Dist. IV STREET NO. 234 Main Street ORIGINAL OWNER John Reister, Sr. ORIGINAL USE residence -tavern PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION frame NO. OF STORIES 2		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>BA-167</u>	
		2. NAME DATE OR PERIOD before 1770 STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER John Reister, Sr.	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		OPEN TO PUBLIC	
<p>Log construction is covered with clapboard. Random width floors and fireplace in each room, with an open hearth in kitchen. Located on "Reister's Desire" patented by John Reister in 1758. Used as a tavern for many years, converted to a house in 1808. Has changed hands many times.</p>			
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



214
THE
WOODEN
ERA

Nettie
Penn
Antiques

234 Main Street

BA 166

234 Main St - Reisterstown

Carol Pollack

4-77

~~West~~. East