

CAPSULE  
EAST GATEHOUSE

Buildings often have multiple areas of significance and this house is one of them. In terms of local history the role of the Sheppard-Pratt Hospital can not be underestimated. That complex once occupied a much larger piece of land which ran East from Charles Street Extended all of the way to York Road. Many of the buildings including the West Gatehouse are on the National Register of Historic Places. This small stone cottage is on a separate parcel of land today and is not on the National Register, however, it was once part of the Sheppard-Pratt complex and is believed to have acted as the "East Gatehouse" for the York Turnpike entrance.

Architecturally the building is significant for both its style and its construction. The original house consisted of a little two story L-shaped cottage which evidences many of the same Picturesque qualities as other Sheppard-Pratt buildings. Both Downing and Vaux and others published similar designs. The steep gables, shingles and the use of stone on the first story give the building the "natural" quality sought in this period.

Although the use of stone in this instance is probably a conscious effort at relating the building to the natural environment it is safe to say that the use of local stone in so many of Baltimore County's buildings, regardless of style, makes this house part of a large group of buildings with regional significance.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

East Gatehouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ninth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY  
Baltimore

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

St. Joseph Hospital

Telephone #: 828-5800

STREET & NUMBER

Osler Drive

CITY, TOWN

Towson

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: 5140

Folio #: 401

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

BA-1763

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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 <u>July, 1979</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In the modern subdivision of the enormous property that Sheppard-Pratt once was at least one building that was once part of that complex is now detached and seemingly isolated. It is the "East Gatehouse" on La Paix Lane near York Road which St. Josephs Hospital now owns. In its original state this house had much in common with its contemporary neighbor (George Gibson Carey House) both of them being text book examples of the Picturesque attitude. The decades of the mid-19th century saw many specific styles such as the Gothic, Italianate, and others (and these houses show evidence of them) but all could and were expressed in terms of a Romantic concern for Nature. Both site, planning and choice of construction materials should have great regard for the environment. Although there were many designers and builders working in this manner and in fact many designs published in readily available sources, it is generally accepted that Andrew Jackson Downing and his associate Alexander Jackson Davis were the principals of this important movement. They designed buildings which harmonized with Nature because of their "organic" composition.

The stone portion of this house is the oldest section and it should be seen as a good example of this very approach. Asymmetrical and multidirectional in design, it is more plant-like than the mathematically precise and sometimes static Neo-classical designs of the previous generation. Its stone and wood construction enables it to blend with its surroundings.

In the late 19th century or Early 20th century this modest size cottage was extended to the West by a two story frame and shingle addition. Prior to that addition, however, it was a two story L-shaped dwelling being of stone construction on the first level and frame above. The plan appears to have called for a hall and two principal rooms downstairs with a similar arrangement above. There was a full cellar. The fenestration is fairly regular for each facade although in total there is a variety of window types and openings. The roof is fairly steeply pitched with gable ends and a centrally located chimney exits at the juncture of the two ridges.

Examination of the attic suggests a replacement roof although it has a Victorian appearance derived from the fish-scale asbestos shingles. Two other buildings in Towson, The Elks Lodge (1903) and The Penn Hotel (renovated John I. Yellott House c. 19 ) have identical roofing. The Gothic

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

design of the cornice is present in both sections as are the deep eaves with butt joined soffit.

It should be noted that the stones of the first level are cut and neatly fit for a random size coursing but that their exterior surface is left rough to emphasize rustication. The largest stones are those used as quoins both at the corners and around the doors. One measured on the east door of the south facade was 20 inches by 18 inches by 20 inches. The walls are 20 inches thick throughout.

There is evidence that La Paix Lane was once an entrance road to the main complex of Sheppard-Pratt which is further West. The relationship to this road may explain its orientation to the South. This main or entrance side is characterized by the twin facades or ell. It is likely that a single story porch has always covered this area although the present square columned pedimented porch is much too "classical" and is probably an alteration contemporary with the west addition. It is decorated with the same shingles that are in the upper story of the main block and the west wing.

In the original massing of this facade there is an east wing and south wing. The south wing has a single window opening on both levels with 4/4 sash. Its gable projects further on its east side than north thus giving it an asymmetrical "catslide" appearance. Beneath the porch there is an entrance located on the east side of this projection. There is also an entrance directly opposite in the south side of the east projection thus creating a type of "double entrance" facade (it may or may not be coincidence that Northern Maryland, which includes upper Baltimore County, is abundant with the double entrance facade which some attribute as a German influence).

The east end of the east wing has a large bay window with a polygonal roof and equally sided stone base that is incorporated into the main foundation.

All but one bay of the west facade is covered by the addition.

The north facade on its first level has the regular 4/4 sash windows in its outer bays and a single little 2/2 in the inner bay. A cellar entrance with a large flat stone lintel is in the west bay. Only the gable end of the upper story has a central window.

A single large parlor occupies the east wing. The bay window with its folding paneled shutters and somewhat elegant mantelpiece give a sense of elegance and formality to this room. The chimney stack is located on the south side of the juncture of the two wings. A hall more or less wraps around the stack and connects with the parlor in the south wing. Evidence of a partition suggests that it was a smaller room unto itself with its own fireplace.

Different mouldings were seen in different parts of the house. The double door connecting the east parlor to the hallway has a

plain channel moulding that has been seen in many 1890-1920 buildings in the area. Most of the other windows and doors have a very common channel with a single rounded or "ogee" center which may or may not be original. The bay window has a plain moulding with an inner bead which most likely is original.

The south wing fireplace is closed up and its mantel is in storage at St. Josephs Hospital. The one in the east room has been painted black but is like the round arch marblized slate mantels of the period with etched spandrels, etc.

The second level has original flooring, or at least it is older than the replacement flooring below. Its mouldings are

like those in the addition.

The almost complete remodeling of the interior, first in the late 19th - early 20th century and again in recent weeks (June, 1979) has changed the floorplan and obliterated evidence of the location of the original stairs. The only access at present to the second level of the stone portion is located in the addition on the west side of the common wall originally the exterior west wall. The most likely location for its original placement (due to fenestration, presidence and similar plans published in Country Cottages) would have been on the other side of the same wall. The upstairs would have consisted of a corner hall and twin wing rooms like the first level.

The basement beneath the main block is a full cellar in which one sees a rectangular chimney support, vertically sawn joists, bracing with cut nails, and coursed rubble walls which have not only the L-shape of the house but the polygonal shape of the east bay window as well. There is evidence of a west cellar window and an original entrance on that side as well.

#### Addition

The frame and shingle addition extended the house to the West on all three levels. Its irregular fenestration and somewhat choppy plan did little to help the original design, except to increase space, but it did little to hurt it either. The flue on its west end served a kitchen on the first level and a bedroom above. One interesting feature of the addition which was unfortunately covered up without record concerns a carpenter's report of having seen "stenciling" on the walls of the kitchen. He was specific in the use of t at word as opposed to papering and reports that it was of a

**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 Third quarter 19th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Buildings often have multiple areas of significance and this house is one of them. In terms of local history the role of the Sheppard-Pratt Hospital can not be underestimated. That complex once occupied a much larger piece of land which ran East from Charles Street Extended all of the way to York Road. Many of the buildings including the West Gatehouse are on the National Register of Historic Places. This small stone cottage is on a separate parcel of land today and is not on the National Register, however, it was once part of the Sheppard-Pratt complex and is believed to have acted as the "East Gatehouse" for the York Turnpike entrance.

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Baltimore County Land Records

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

ORGANIZATION

HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

DATE

STREET & 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

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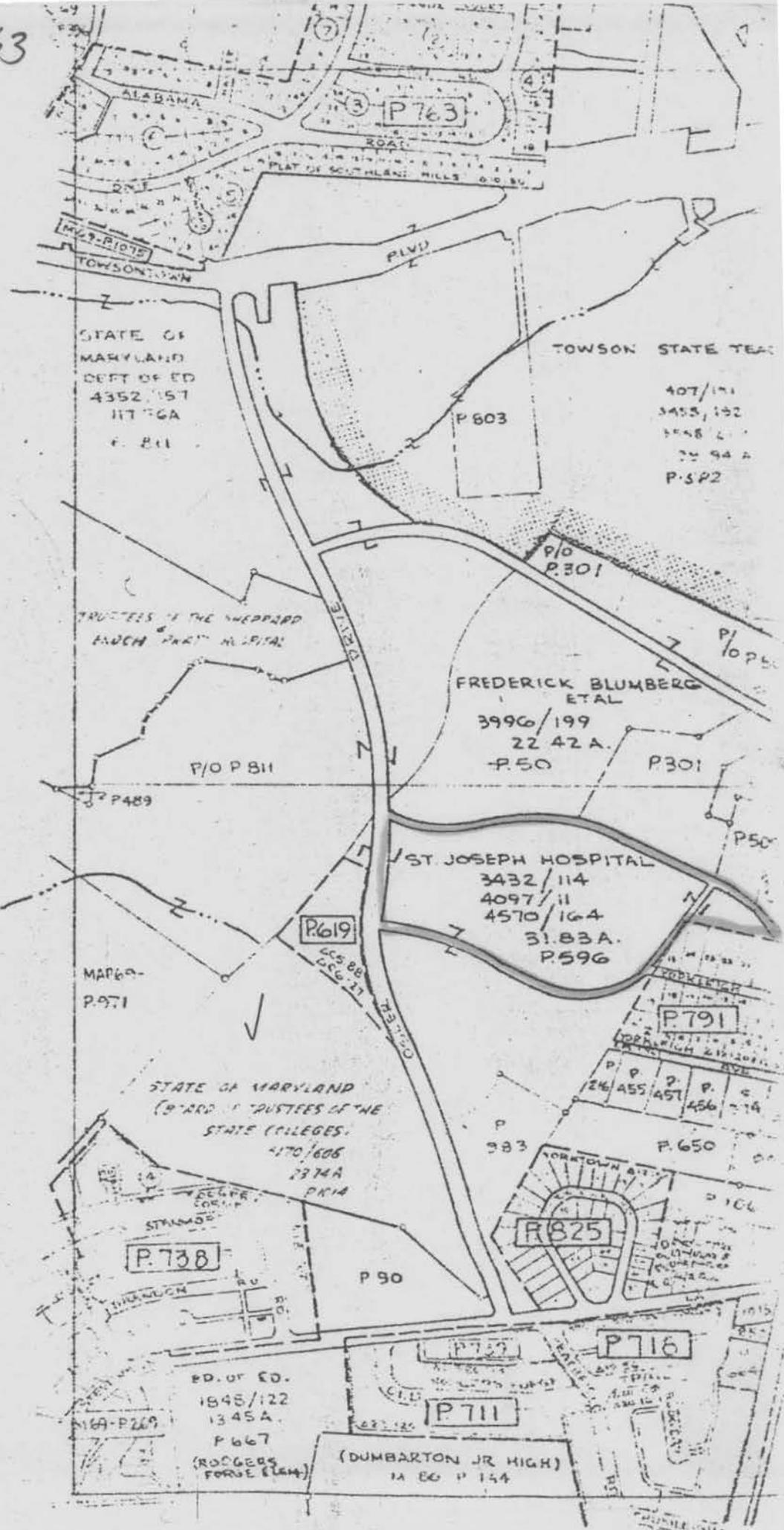
DEED REFERENCE FOR EAST GATEHOUSE

<u>LIBER</u>	<u>FOLIO</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>
205	22	May 14, 1894	Safe Deposit and Trust Company	Trustee of Sheppard Asylum

Beginning of the west side of the York Turnpike at a stone marked "SA" Southeast 33' to the center of the York Turnpike Road, Northeast 50', Northwest 360' 6", Southeast 113' 9", Southeast 230' 9" to the beginning. Containing .361 acres.

69

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117 76A  
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407 / 171  
3453, 192  
1548 2  
25 94 A  
P. 522

TRUSTEES OF THE SHEPPARD  
BUNCH PARK HOSPITAL

FREDERICK BLUMBERG  
ETAL  
3996 / 199  
22 42 A.  
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ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL  
3432 / 114  
4097 / 11  
4570 / 164  
31.83A.  
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MAR 69 -  
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(BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
STATE COLLEGES)  
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2374A  
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BD. OF ED.  
1848 / 122  
1345A  
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(ROGERS FORGE (L&M))

(DUMBARTON JR HIGH)  
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