

BA 1962

MARYLAND LINE POST OFFICE

c1898

MARYLAND LINE

PRIVATE

At the time of the survey, this long, rectangular, gable-roofed frame and clapboard country store served as the Maryland Line post office, as well as the residence of the building owner. However, in mid-1980, the postal operation was moved to the south end of town. Although the postmaster estimated the age of the building at 1880, the lot had only cost \$125 in 1898 when J. Frank Trout purchased it. Trout sold in 1911 to H. Curtis Krout, the same year that county tax ledgers prove the existence of a store. Although this store is extremely plain and scarcely fenestrated on the sides, its street facade, the gable end of the structure, is in an exuberantly decorated late Victorian design that includes a porch for the store and a porch or gallery for the living quarters on the second floor. The two store windows are composed of four large sheets each. A decorative lattice formed of small round spokes runs between the porch columns. The gable peak of the house includes scroll brackets, a latticework of small dowels or spokes, and an infill of fish scale shingles.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MAGI 0319625611

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**HISTORIC *MARYLAND LINE POST OFFICE*

AND/OR COMMON

*Same***2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER *21,514 York Road*

CITY, TOWN

*Maryland Line* VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

*2nd*

STATE

*Maryland 21105*

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 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	<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 checked="" 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 *Joseph S. Meszaros and  
Betty S. Meszaros*

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

*21,514 York Road*

CITY, TOWN

*Maryland Line* VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

*Maryland 21105***5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *County Courts Building*Liber #: *EHK JR. 5466*Folio #: *89*

STREET &amp; NUMBER

*401 Bosley Avenue*

CITY, TOWN

*Towson*

STATE

*Maryland 21204***6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

*None*

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**BA-1962  
MARYLAND LINE POST OFFICE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Maryland Line Post Office is a fairly exuberant late Victorian building in front and merely a functional structure along its sides. It is a two-story plus attic frame commercial building with living quarters and full-width gallery on the second floor. The store layout was apparently a center entrance plan in the beginning. There are three bays across the front but they are not aligned vertically. The porch roof is hipped, supported by four columns rising from the second floor deck. The deck is supported by four columns rising from the public level deck at or near ground level. The porch deck is three steps above grade. Large double-paneled doors lead into what is now the postal patrons' lobby. Large, country-store type windows fixed in place flank the central doors and each display window is composed of four very large square glass panes separated by mullions in a cross pattern. These windows are provided with paneled shutters, more decorative than practical, as they are too narrow to shut off the windows.

The porch posts are square at top and bottom, but have been machine-turned in places to a round-cross section. Between the tops of the first-story supporting posts and the second floor deck are a plain architrave and plain cornice. A lattice formed of small round spokes runs between the porch posts over the entrance steps; there is also over this entrance a wooden plank painted with the wording "United States Post Office/Maryland Line, MD." A smaller, tacked-on panel contains the zip code. The porch shelters a full-sized steel street mail drop box and a small stamp-vending machine; also a contemporary bench.

The second-story front facade contains three bays: a center door protected by an antique frame screen door, flanked by two double-hung sash windows of 6-over-6 layout. The porch is railed by square balusters. The porch roof is hipped, with overhanging eaves; covering material is rubber roofing tile. A plain architrave rises from the porch posts to the soffits.

There are two rectangular windows of one pane each in the gable end. A mixture of scroll brackets and latticework (small round spokes or dowels) forms the gable peak applied decoration. The gable end is filled in with fish scale shingles.

Sides of the building are plain, with few openings. On the south, there is a full-sized window at second-story level in the bay closest to the street. The other three bays are occupied by small square or rectangular windows, and a side door.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

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CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 1, ITEM 7, PAGE 2 MARYLAND LINE POST OFFICE

A small, rectangular, one-story addition is tacked on at the southwest corner of the main block and provides a full-scale window facing the street, one window facing south; both are 1-over-1 types, double-hung. The open wooden steps leading to the upstairs apartment are supported by this small addition, its roof serving as the porch deck.

Another shallow addition, two stories with a shed roof, is tacked onto the rear of the house. Wall covering is clapboard. One inside chimney rises along the south end of the house between first and second bays. Foundation is stone.

Inside the double doors leading to the postal lobby are rental mail boxes and a single window for patrons. The area inside the postal working space has been modernized with commonplace paneling and wallboard. No characteristic features survive from the country-store era. The interior is without esthetic value.

<p>PERIOD</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> REHISTORIC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1900-</p>	<p>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ART</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LAW</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> THEATER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)</p>
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SPECIFIC DATES *About 1898*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present postmaster of Maryland Line thinks that the old frame grocery store that has been adapted with a postal lobby and lock boxes is about 100 years old, i.e. constructed c. 1880. However, the present lot traces back as an easily identified parcel of 88½ square perches to a sale made in 1898, when J. Frank Trout was able to buy that parcel and another lot (21½ square perches) from the executor of Thomas G. Rutledge, for only \$125. (1)

No store can be identified here in the 1877 atlas, and thus clues would suggest that this exuberantly decorated building is a late Victorian specimen.

The building certainly existed in 1911, when J. Frank Trout and Mary B. Trout conveyed to H. Curtis Krout. (2) The 1911 tax ledger, by a notation added in 1913, shows that Harry C. Krout (the same person) had a lot on the westside of York Road with a "Store House" worth \$800 and another \$800 in "business assets." (3) Polk's 1915 directory listed Curtis H. Krout as "general store and postmaster." (4) Bromley's 1915 atlas shows a "Store" where the 1898 atlas had shown only a small black square.

The 1918 atlas charged Harry C. Krout, among other properties, with:

Lot at New Market adj. Mrs. Hendrix N.@	\$200
Storehouse 32 x 2 (sic) 1 story	
24 x 40 2 stories	1382
Stock in Trade 800 Auto 375	1175. (5)

The structure passed to C. Glen Krout in 1960; he died in 1964, leaving the property to his sole heir, his sister, Helen Gladys Anderson. Mrs. Anderson, a resident of Shrewsbury Borough, York County, conveyed to Joseph F. and Betty S. Meszaros in 1974. (6) Mr. and Mrs. Meszaros live upstairs in this ample building, leasing the first story to the U.S. Postal Service.

BA-1962

NOTES:

1. Baltimore County Deeds, NBM 231:116.
2. B.C. Deeds, WPC 383:60.
3. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1911, f. 593.
4. R. L. Polk, Maryland Gazette and Business Directory  
(Baltimore, 1915), p. 1075.
5. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1918, f. 609.
6. B.C. Deeds, EHK, JR. 5466:89.

UPDATE:

In the autumn of 1980, the sites surveyor discovered that the postoffice operation had been moved out of this country store and set up at the Line Garage in the south end of town. No successor tenant had been found.

BA-1962

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

MARYLAND LINE POST OFFICE

Baltimore County Deeds, Tax Ledgers, atlases; interview with postmaster, April 1980.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.43

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Beginning on westside of York Road:  
S74W 367.95 feet  
S19E 72.6 feet  
N21½E 366.3 feet to the York Road  
N19W 59.4 feet along York Road

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

STATE *None* COUNTY *None*

STATE *None* COUNTY *None*

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME/TITLE

*John W. McGrain*

ORGANIZATION

*Office of Planning and Zoning (Baltimore County)*

DATE

*May 7, 1980*

STREET & NUMBER

*401 Bosley Avenue*

TELEPHONE

*494-3495*

CITY OR TOWN

*Towson*

STATE

*Maryland 21204*

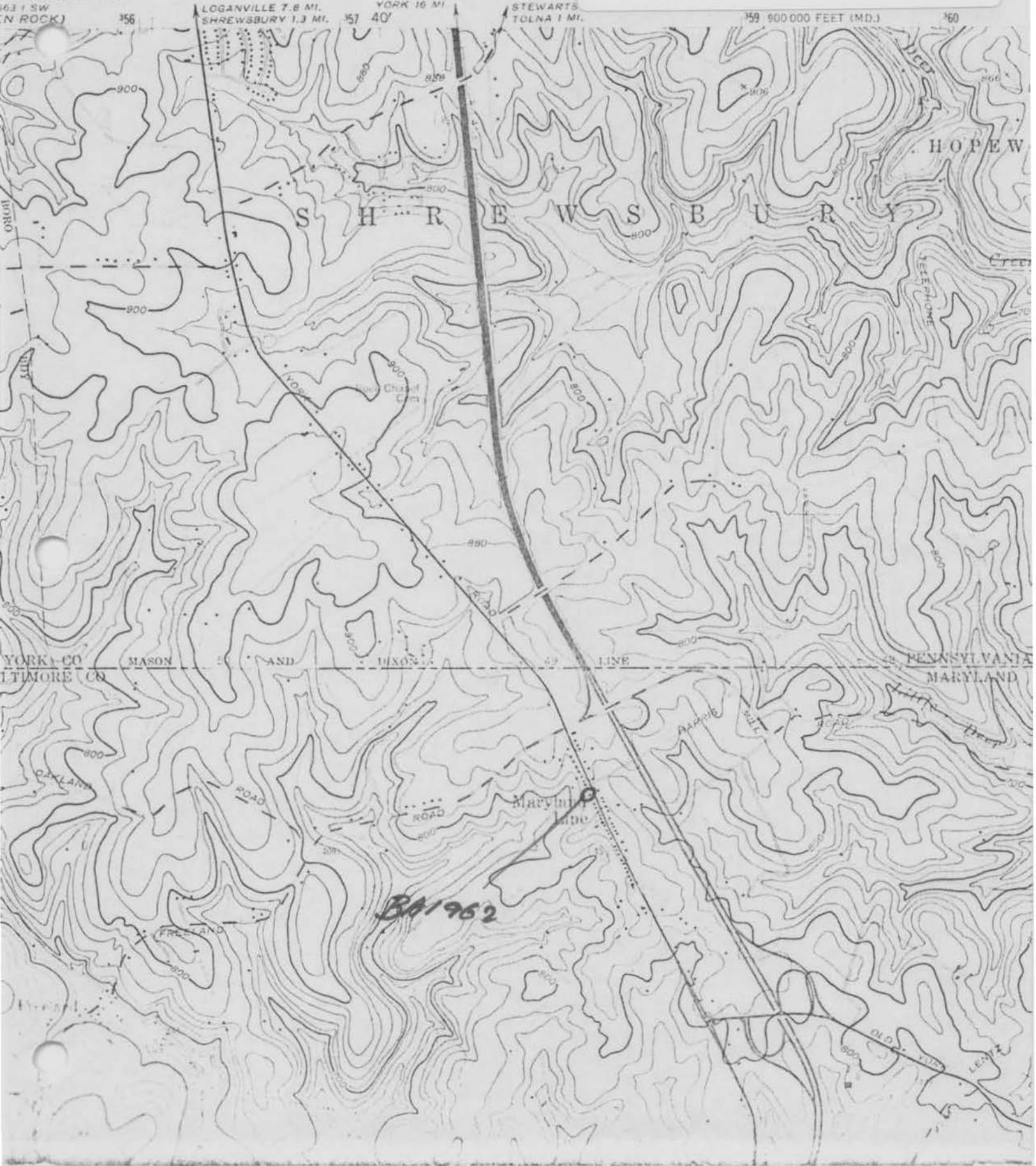
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ENGINEERS

MARYLAND LINE POST OFFICE BA 1962  
U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quad  
NEW FREEDOM





0154

MARYLAND LINE POST OFFICE BA 1962  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, Oct 1979  
Neg. located at MHT  
South & east facades from SE



MARYLAND LINE POST OFFICE BA 1962  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, Oct 1979  
Neg. located at MHT  
Main (E) facade