

BA 2005

HELB HOUSE (UPPER)/ SPICER HOUSE

1881-1896

PARKTON

PRIVATE

This is the uppermost of the three houses that were originally identical, known as Chestnut Row. The land was put on the market as lots in 1881 and the first proof of the existence of improvements is in the 1896 tax ledger when Frederick Helb had four frame houses. Two of the houses (18,907-18-909) belonged to George and Lydia Hartenstein in the early part of the century. In 1924, this upper house was sold to Clarence M. Spicer, a railroad employee. Both Spicer and his wife were killed in an auto accident in the late 1970s. This vernacular structure is covered with a grey rubber shingling. Roofing is corrugated steel.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC HELB HOUSE (Upper)

AND/OR COMMON

Spicer House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

18,911 York Road

CITY, TOWN

Parkton

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

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 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

Clarence M. Spicer Estate

Telephone #: Not listed.

STREET & NUMBER

18,911 York Road

CITY, TOWN

Parkton

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21120

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: WPC 608

Folio #: 151

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

BA-2005

7 DESCRIPTION

HELB HOUSE
(Upper)

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Helb House (Upper) or Spicer house is similar to the other two built as a set and stands on the hill north of Park-ton, the house facing west. This is a two-story plus attic, gable-roofed, vernacular structure four bays wide by two bays deep, a frame and clapboard duplex now covered with rubber shingling or siding of a light grey tone imprinted with a brick pattern. The two entrance doors are clustered in the two center bays. There is a full-width, hip-roofed front porch supported by four square posts. Windows are 6-over-6 double-hung sash types without shutters. All bays in both stories and in the two-bay depth of each of the side walls are supplied with windows of this type.

The two small, square windows in each gable peak contain four lights.

The rear of the house is three bays across and somewhat irregularly fenestrated with the same type of 6-over-6 win-dows. There is a one-story shed roof over the walk-in en-trance to the basement, which opens at ground level in the rear due to the steep slope from the highway level at the front of the house.

Foundation is stone. Roofing material is corrugated steel. The eaves overhang noticeably and there are prominent eave returns. There is a brick inside end-chimney at the north end of the house.

A picket fence runs in front of the house and there is a shed-roofed, wooden poultry house painted red in the rear yard, as well as other small, frame dependencies.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 1881-1896 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is the uppermost of three houses that were originally identical, built of once plentiful chestnut plank, and according to an adjoining landowner, was called "Chestnut Row." (1)

The land here was part of the timbering tract owned until 1880 by Christoff Kolter, who became insolvent. In the early 1880s, some of the timberland came on the market as town lots, and Frederick Helb, who was involved in settling Kolter's affairs, acquired this lot in 1881 for \$180; the deed described it as adjoining Patrick Kelly's property. (2)

The 1896 tax ledger charged Helb with "4 frame houses on York Road at Parkton @ \$700," a total of \$2800 worth of improvements. Helb was described as a resident of Railroad Post Office, York County, Pennsylvania. (3)

In 1905, Helb died, and his executors Edward Helb and Julius C. Helb sold the uppermost lot to Edward Helb as an individual. (4) They sold the two lower lots to Lydia Hartenstein; tax ledgers allow us to deduce that Mr. and Mrs. George Hartenstein (it is spelled several ways) owned the houses that have in recent years been assigned the street numbers 18,907 and 18,909 York Road. (5)

Frederick Helb had been engaged in a number of businesses as well as farming and his will mentioned among his Pennsylvania properties "hides and bark in the tannery." (6) He had also been shown as owner of a sawmill somewhere on the westside of York Road between the towns of Maryland Line and Parkton on the 226 acres charged to his account in the 1896 tax ledger of this district.

The 1911 tax ledger showed that Edward Helb owned one house on the eastside of York Road in Parkton, with one dwelling worth \$800 and another worth \$1000. (7)

The 1918 tax ledger showed Helb with two houses, but one of them was some distance away and soon thereafter sold.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

His house on a lot "adjoining Jacob C. Stiffler" measured 24 x 32 and was two stories high, making it a twin, or "triplet" of the two houses at that time in the hands of the Hartensteins. (8, 9).

These houses had appeared in the Bromley atlas of 1915. In 1924, Edward Helb and wife conveyed this property they had owned for twenty years to Clarence M. Spicer and wife. The house is still recorded under that deed number. (10)

Mr. Spicer was a life-long railroad employee, but in his youth, before the State took over ownership of the York Road, he helped the turnpike company's gatekeeper collect the tolls. Both Spicer and his wife were killed in an auto accident in the late 1970s. (11)

NOTES:

1. Interview with neighbor, local history expert, Miss Emily R. Stiffler, March 1980.
2. Baltimore County Deeds, WMI 130:500.
3. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1896, Entry #238-47.
4. B.C. Deeds, WPC 608:148.
5. B.C. Deeds, WPC 304:190.
6. B.C. Deeds WPC 608:148, and York County Wills, SS 19:94.
7. B.C. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1911, f. 545.
8. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1918, f. 556.
9. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1918, f. 553.
10. B.C. Deeds, WPC 608:151.
11. Personal communication from Miss Emily R. Stiffler, Parkton resident, June 6, 1979.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

HELB HOUSE (Upper)

Baltimore County Deeds and Tax Ledgers.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.75

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning on the eastside of York Road
 S61-3/4 297 feet
 S24-1/2W 78
 N61-3/4W 190 feet along lot 2
 N15E 18
 N70W 74 feet to York Road
 N15E 62.5 feet along York Road (Map 17, Parcel P217)

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

STATE	NONE	COUNTY	NONE
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STATE	NONE	COUNTY	NONE
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III FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning and Zoning

DATE

May 28, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

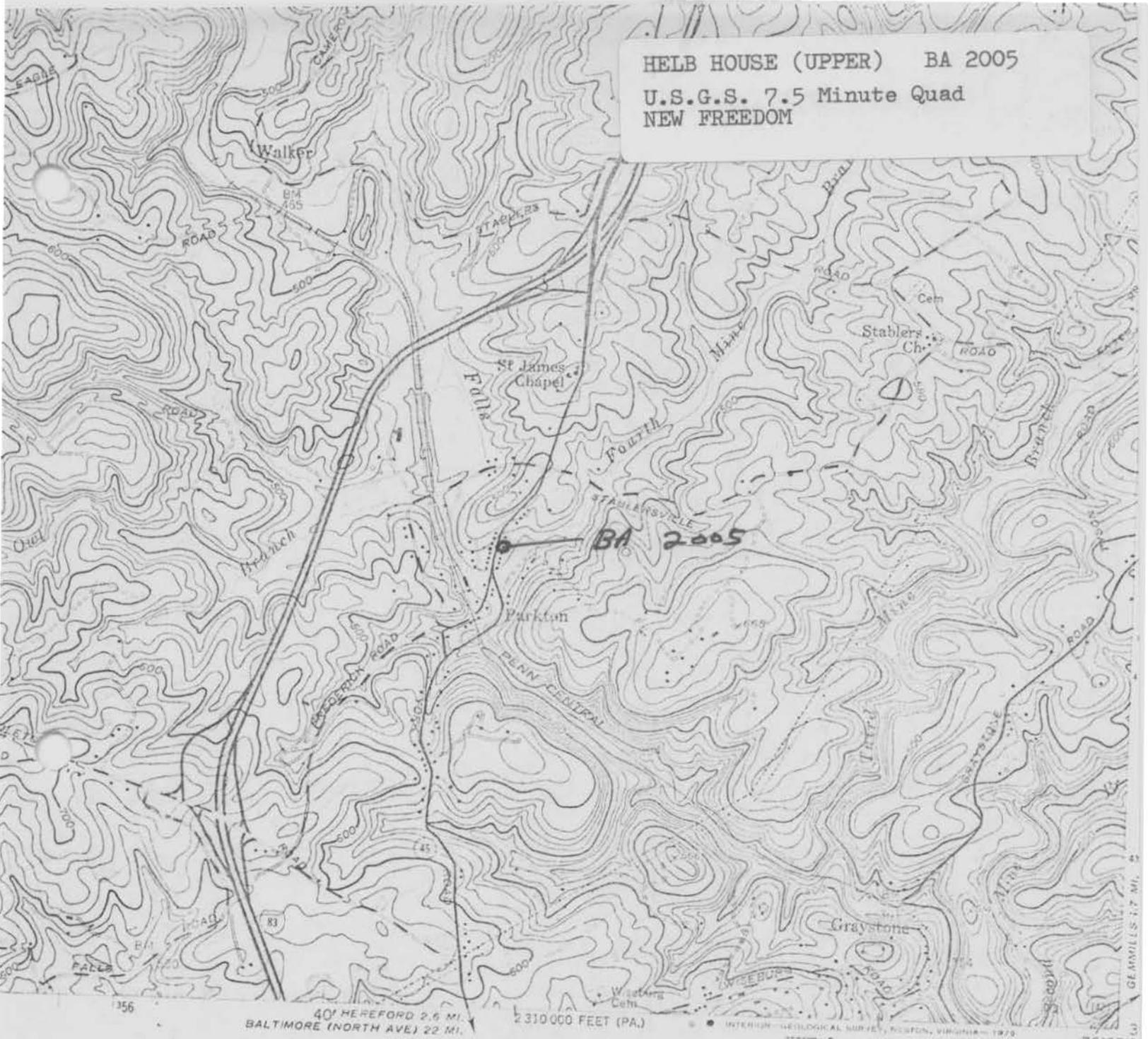
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

HELB HOUSE (UPPER) BA 2005

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quad
NEW FREEDOM

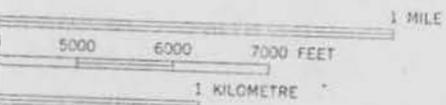


40' HEREFORD 2.6 MI.
BALTIMORE (NORTH AVE) 22 MI.

2 310 000 FEET (PA.)

3550000m E

WHITE HALL 0.3 MI. 76°37'31"



FEET
SUM OF 1929

ACCURACY STANDARDS
STON, VIRGINIA 22092
LS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1974. This information not field checked.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty —————
- Medium-duty - - - - -
- Light-duty —————
- Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- U.S. Route □
- State Route ○

NEW FREEDOM, MD.—PA.

N3937.5—W7637.5/7.5

1958
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 5563 II NW SERIES V833



HELB HOUSE (UPPER) BA 2005
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, March 1980
Neg. located at MHT
Main (west) facade from SW



HELB HOUSE (UPPER) BA 2005
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, March 1980
Neg. located at MHT
Rear (house on right of photo)