

BA 2012

ALMONY STORE

PARKTON

PRIVATE

This now defunct store is a typical rural business structure of frame and clapboard built on the grounds where Parkton Lumber Company was operating when wrecked by flood in 1901. The 1911 tax ledger showed James W. Ayres with a store and dwelling. Ayres and wife soon sold to Alfred A. Sparks. It was M. Stiffler's store in the 1918 tax ledger. The present owner, Benjamin H. Almony, took title in 1932, two years after the highway traffic had been diverted to a new bridge (BA 2070), leaving the store on a back street. This is a two-story structure, a main gable roofed block, flanked on either side with shed-roofed additions. The street facade has a number of small store windows, which have been boarded up following recent flood damage. The style is functional, but typical of small towns.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC ALMONY STORE

AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
18,827 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 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 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 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  
Benjamin H. Almony  
STREET & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: Not listed

CITY, TOWN Parkton VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE, zip code Maryland 21120

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building

Liber #: LMcLM 896  
Folio #: 24

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 \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 Almony Store is a frame and clapboard, two-story plus attic, commercial and residential building in functional style. The main block consists of the gable-roofed, three-bay wide entrance block and its contiguous two-story, full-height southern extension; the two segments have roof lines laid out on opposing axes. Both blocks are roofed with corrugated steel sheeting. A plain, shed-roofed porch runs full width across the store entrance; somewhere in its history, it was enclosed with glass panes and paneling of much younger vintage. The porch and the rest of the facade facing the street were subjected to flood damage in the 1970s and have been crudely patched and boarded up.

In the main block, second-story windows are 2-over-2 double-hung sash types, with the windows in the middle bay twined; similar twin windows are located directly above attic level in the gable end. This block is four bays deep along its north (or left) end, but there are openings only at second-story level. The first story is obscured by a one-story garage, a crude, shed-roofed structure, the roofing material corrugated sheet metal, the siding a brick-patterned rubber siding or roofing material. The garage door faces the street and there are triple 1-over-1 windows in its sidewall; the rear wall is white aluminum siding; the entire garage structure is supported by concrete piers.

The rear of the main block is two bays wide; there are no openings at first-floor level, but two at the second-story level where the windows are 2-over-2 types. The gable-end attic fenestration is a set of three contiguous 1-over-1 sash windows. Eaves overhang noticeably on the ends and on the north facade. There is a rear, one-story, shed-roofed annex tacked on the main block, perched on masonry piers; this room has a single rear window of 2-over-2 type.

The south extension of the store is two bays on the street side, one bay deep on the rear facade. A concrete-block outside chimney rises along the joint between the two main segments at the rear of the building.

The south gable end of the entire building is four bays wide or deep, with a shed-roofed vestibule entrance at the southeast corner. An open wooden stairway leads to a second-story entrance which is sheltered by a cantilevered hood. Two square attic windows are set in the gable peak.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

Some of the first-story facade has been crudely patched following flood damage of the 1970s.

This building backs up to the Gunpowder Falls and its street, once a main route, has been by-passed.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
X 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 1901-1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The now-closed Almony general store is a typical functional structure characteristic of small country towns, easily identified as a store. The land here was entirely undeveloped in 1892 when the Martha Turner property was recorded in a plat prior to breaking up the estate. (1)

This lot and the property adjoining to the north (site of a concrete and stucco store-apartment) were sold by Mrs. Turner's executor to James W. Ayres in 1893 for only \$295.

(2) Ayres and wife leased the grounds to the Parkton Lumber Company which had an office and a lumber shed on the grounds by the 1896 assessment. (3) However, the company became insolvent, and while the receivers "were on their way to take possession of said property one of the worst floods ever known in that locality overflowed the lumber yard of said company and washed away a large quantity of lumber, which your petitioners .... are advised is scattered in a broken condition from Parkton to the mouth of Gunpowder River."

(4) This storm, the freshet of August 19, 1901, put the company out of business, and James Ayres recovered his interest in the property. (5)

The present country store replaced the lumberyard some time before the 1911 tax ledger, where James W. Ayres was charged with a storehouse and dwelling. (6)

In 1911, Zora M. and James W. Ayres sold to Alfred A. Sparks, who is also found in the 1911 tax ledger; a subsequent revision shows a new house built in 1915 and assessed at \$1,000; that "house" later appears as a "garage" and it was reduced to \$100 in value in 1932 in connection with the words "underpass N.C.R.R."). (7)

The 1918 tax ledger showed M. Stiffler with a two-story garage 30 by 30 (\$675) and a Store House 28 x 28, also two stories (\$1058). In 1919, there was an addition worth \$250 made to the garage. (8) In 1921, Stiffler sold the present store parcel of 25 square perches to Norman M. Griffin. (9)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

The 1923 tax ledger showed that Griffin's portion contained only a storehouse; he also owned a 1-1/2 ton commercial truck, 1922 model, \$200 in fixtures, and \$1,000 in merchandise. (10)

Griffin sold to John L. Krebs and J. Frank Thompson in 1926, and those partners sold in 1932 to Benjamin H. Almony, who was the last operator of the store. (11) After 1930, the main traffic of the York Road was rerouted over a pair of bridges to the east, and the through traffic was lost. The valley floor here is subject to flooding and there have been several floods in the 1970s. The store is closed with a number of signs still advertising products no longer available.

The large white masonry and stucco house-apartment on the twin lot to the north is post-World War II in origin and not suitable for historic listing.

## NOTES:

1. B.C. Plats, JWS 1:79A.
2. B.C. Deeds, NBM 196:45.
3. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1896, n.p.
4. Judicial Records, NBM 189:73.
5. B.C. Deeds, NBM 261:311.
6. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1911, f. 423.
7. B.C. Deeds, WPC 380:58. Also, Tax Ledger, District 7, 1911, f. 711, 721.
8. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1918, f. 782.
9. B.C. Deeds, WPC 539:331.
10. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1923, f. 499.
11. B.C. Deeds WPC 631:18; also, LMCLM 896:24.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

ALMONY HOUSE BA-2012

Baltimore County Deed Books, Plats, Tax Ledgers.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 25 square perches

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

1. Beginning in centerline of Little Gunpowder River, following property of Charity Lodge 95 feet to centerline of York State Road (MD 463).
2. Following York Road 77 feet (i.e., the abandoned turnpike).
3. Paralleling the first line 95 feet to center of Little Gunpowder River.
4. With straight line to beginning (along Little Gunpowder River). (Map 17, Parcel P265)

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, Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore County Office of Planning & Zoning

DATE

May 19, 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.

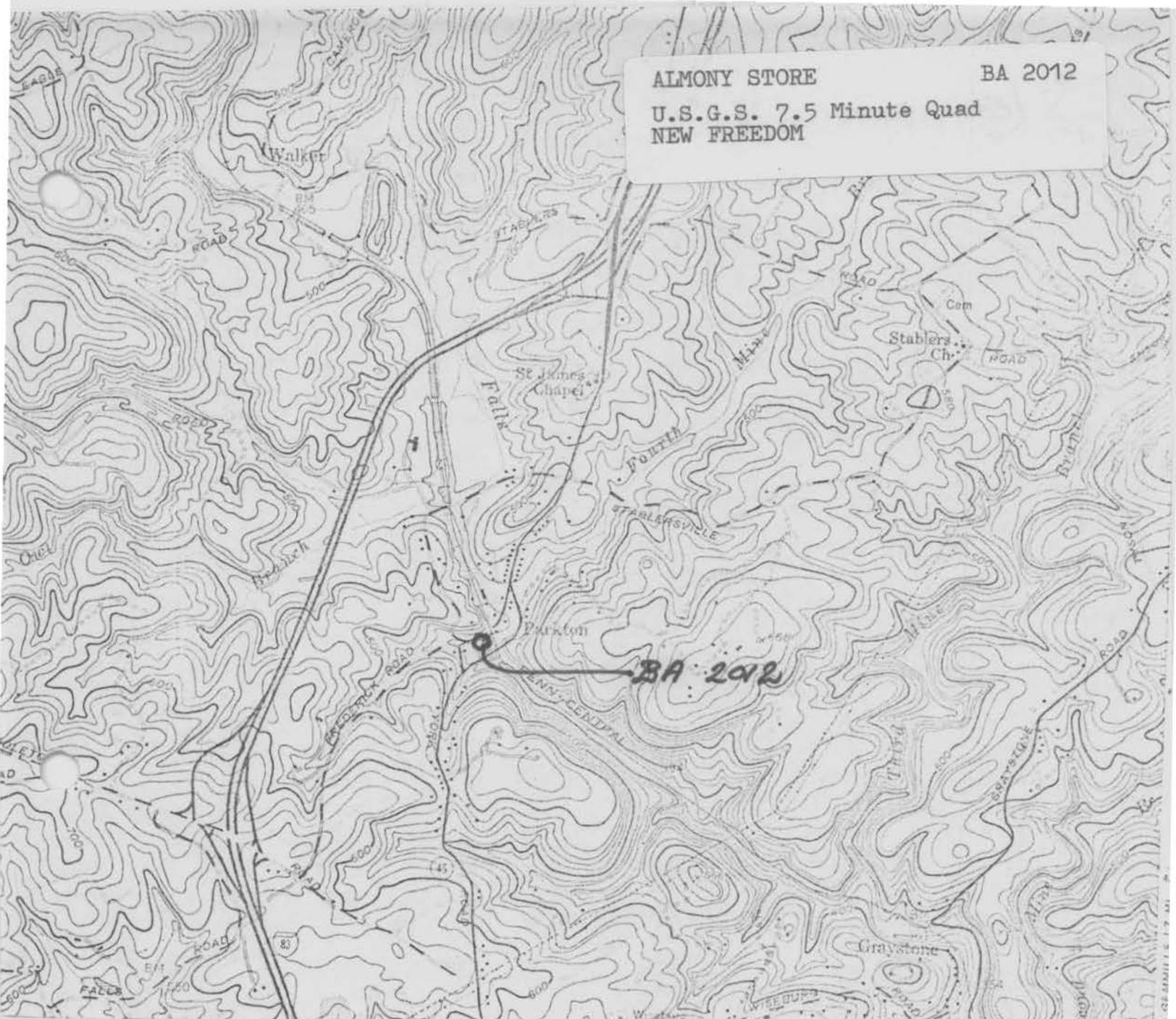
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

ALMONY STORE

BA 2012

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



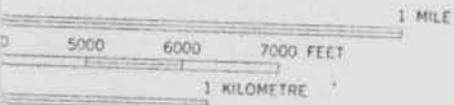
40 MILEFORD 2.5 MI.  
BALTIMORE (NORTH AVE) 22 MI.

310000 FEET (P.A.)

359000m E.

WHITE HALL 0.3 MI.

76°37'



FEET  
SUM OF 1929



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

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 5663 II NW—SERIES V833

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

ACCURACY STANDARDS  
STON, VIRGINIA 22092  
OLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ALMONY STORE BA 2012  
Baltimore County, Maryland  
J. McGrain, March 1980  
Neg. located at MHT  
Main (NW) facade & NE



ALMONY STORE

BA 2012

Baltimore County, Maryland

J. McGrain, March 1980

Neg. located at MHT

Rear (SE) facade from river bank