

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Orange House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 1419 White Hall Road not for publication

city, town White Hall vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 2nd

state Md. county Baltimore Co. Councilmanic Dist. 3rd

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William A. and Wanda Orange

street & number Box 163 telephone no.: 329-6574

city, town White Hall state and zip code Md. 21161

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Bldg. EHK JR.  
liber 5784

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue folio 788

city, town Towson state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

# 7. Description

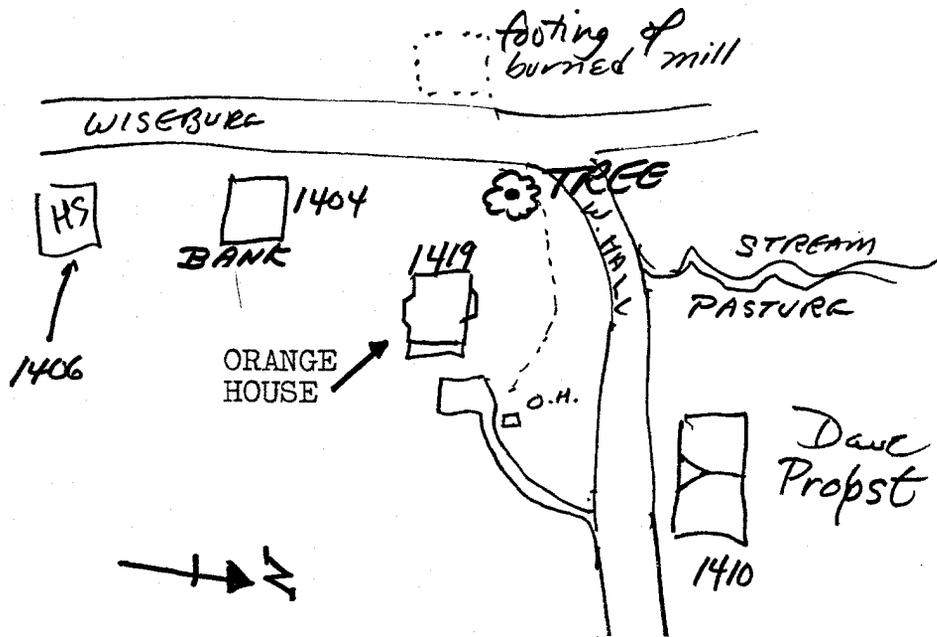
Survey No. BA-2373

<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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Orange House is a large frame Queen Anne style residence perched on a prominent hilltop overlooking the hike-bike trail that was once the Northern Central Railroad. The main facade faces the railway and is shrouded in trees. There is a full-width front porch with a carved sunburst over the porch steps. High as it is on the hill, the house is perched on a high stone foundation, almost a story high under the porch. The roof has a number of jerkinhead gables. Now covered with white aluminum, the house was originally in fishscale shingle, samples of which are still attached to a small privy. The house has never stood unattended or been vandalized. It has eight fireplaces and good interior woodwork. The inside doors are 9 feet high with six panels. An elegant stairway leads to the two upper floors and is apparently unchanged from the beginning, with varnish over oak, never painted over during later periods of decoration. The upper sash windows contain small squares of stained glass in unusual colors.

If this house is a reworking of the 1870 residence of Enos K. Wright, we can not account for the disappearance of one house and the installation of another. 1



1. The assessment records that have been helpful in the past have just been transferred to the Hall of Records, Annapolis, and have to be accessioned.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. BA-2373

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 checked="" 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	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Orange House is a large, frame structure in Queen Anne style, which is in the very spot shown on the 1877 Hopkins atlas as the home of E. K. Wright. The puzzling thing about the house is that its architectural style is not that of the 1870s but more like the styles toward the end of the century.

Enos K. Wright bought the land at White Hall in June 1869, and acquired what the deed called "the White Hall Station dwelling house" plus 41 acres of tracts named "Bull's Romantic Hills." (Deeds EHA 63:92)

In 1870, the Sun provided a sketch of the town, which reveals:

. . . This little place, where there was formerly only a tavern and a few farm houses, now possesses a good store, recently put up by Mr. E. K. Wright. An ornamental villa, erected by the Rev. Dr. Ryan, graces the opposite hillside. The residence of Mr. Hunter, Mr. Wise, and Mr. Wright are fine substantial structures, indicative, no doubt, of the solid men that occupy them. Springs of pure water are abundant. A good grist mill and two paper mills are in the vicinity, and a woolen factory is talked of. This place is also the terminus of a stage route from Peach Bottom, on the Susquehanna, to the Northern Central railway. A Sabbath school has recently been organized here under the most favorable auspices, and is largely attended. . . . (Sun, June 27, 1870)

In 1871, Wright sold the property to William S. Rayner of Baltimore. (Deeds EHA 74:178) Wright apparently stayed on the house, because he is shown in the atlas as mentioned above and also paid to be an atlas patron. In the patron list he called himself a "merchant" and gave his "date of settlement" as 1866, his birthplace as Philadelphia. The atlas showed the Rayner residence on the north side of White Hall Road. The Rev. Mr. Ryan's place mentioned as a "villa" by the Sun in 1870 does not appear.

Scharf's county history of 1881 credited Wright with starting the village Sunday School. The Wright Store was on the south side of White Hall Road and its stone foundation survives on the Orange property.

The William S. Rayner who briefly owned the property was a Baltimore entrepreneur who sat on several bank, and railway, and gas company boards, a developer of properties in the city, and a pioneer in Jewish charities, including the Hebrew Orphanage, which he started in the old Calverton Mansion at his own expense. Born in Bavaria in 1822, Rayner was a scholar in both German and Hebrew and is credited with helping Bayard Taylor of Kennett Square, Pa., translate Faust. His son, Isador Rayner, became a U.S. Senator from Maryland early in this century. (Baltimore, Its History and People, Chicago, 1912, p. 879.)

Rayner sold the White Hall property back to Enos K. Wright in 1879. (Deeds JB 111:36).

White Hall had been a railroad stop since 1838, but was apparently just beginning to become a complete and compact town when Wright arrived. In April 1880, Wright sold to Samuel Black. (Deeds WMI 117:35). Mr. Black was one of the investors in a five-story flour mill built in 1903 across the road from the Orange House to replace the old water mill. The mill was to be operated by a joint stock company, and shares of the enterprise are still to be found in local collections; the mill was to be 40 by 60 feet. (Maryland Journal, October 4, 1902) The mill was burned in 1973 and its destruction was charged to Ernest W. and Thomas Widener. (Sun, April 18, 1975)

The mansion was held by various members of the Black family until 1897, when it was acquired along with a three-acre lot by John March McComas. (Deeds, LMB 227:183). Thomas C. Baldwin acquired it in 1905 (Deeds WPC : 292:540) and the 1915 atlas (Plate 39) shows Mrs. Baldwin as owner. The 1918 tax ledger showed:

T. C. Baldwin

4 a.	on White Hall road 100 yds from White Hall Station adj. J. F. Zeller n.	
	@ \$100 Per Acre	\$400
	Dwelling 32 x 32 2 stories	1751
	2 Out buildings	150
		<u>\$2300.</u>

Substantially the same entry had been carried in the 1911 Tax Ledger. (B.C. Tax Ledgers, 1911, District 7, f. 435; 1918, District 7, f. 426.)

The last Baldwin family owner sold to William H. Morgart in 1974 (Deeds EHK JR. 5481:776). The Oranges bought from Morgart in 1977. (Deeds 5784:788).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA-2373

"White Hall, Baltimore County," Baltimore Sun, June 27, 1870.

"White Hall Transformed After Beginning of Railroad," Pat Van Den Beemt, Record-Advertiser, August 19, 1987.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.15

Quadrangle name Hereford

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Map 17, Parcel P288. Bounded on n. by White Hall Road, on w. by Wiseburg-School House Road.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrain

organization Office of Planning & Zoning date June 8, 1988

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue telephone 494-3495

city or town Towson state MD 21204