

**Addendum to  
Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Inventory of  
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. BA-3071

Page 1 of 1

Name of Property: 7531 Belair Road (US 1)

Location: 7531 Belair Road, Nottingham, Maryland 21236

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The house at 7531 was surveyed in 2000, resulting in the completion of an MIHP form. At the time of the 2000 survey, the property contained a circa 1905 Queen Anne dwelling. Architectural investigations in August 2014, for the State Highway Administration's US 1 from the Baltimore City Line to I-695 Project, determined that the 1905 dwelling had been demolished and replaced in 2008 with a structure containing a Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins store.

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**BA-3071**  
**House, 7531 Belair Road**  
**Baltimore County**  
**ca. 1905**  
**Private**

The former single-family dwelling at 7531 Belair Road was constructed circa 1905 in the newly developed neighborhood historically known as Fullerton. The community of Fullerton, since absorbed within the Baltimore City suburb of Overlea, was established on agricultural land owned in the 1870s by A. Deemer. Designed in the Queen Anne style, the building is one of a few extant dwellings that were designed and constructed by the developers in the first decades of the 20th century. The commercial development of Belair Road, which bounded Fullerton to the northwest, has resulted in the loss and/or alteration of many of these imposing dwellings. The property includes a commercial storefront and circa 1925 rock-faced concrete block garage.

The two-and-a-half-story building is Queen Anne in style, displaying the distinctive irregular form, open pedimented gables, canted bay windows, and a corbeled chimney. The wood frame structure is set on a raised foundation of poured concrete that has been parged and is clad with asbestos shingles. Open pedimented gables augment the cross gable roof, which is clad with slate tiles. The overhang of the roof is trimmed with an ovolo-molded cornice, a smooth soffitt, and quadrant bead bed molding. An interior brick chimney with an ornate corbeled cap is located in the center of the main block. Stylistically, the vernacular building draws from the Queen Anne style with its now-enclosed porch, molded cornice, elongated openings, and form. A one-story hipped roof garage, dating from the 1920s, is located to the south of the building. A one-story commercial structure has been added to the west corner of the building.

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Inventory No. BA-3071

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other

## 2. Location

street and number 7531 Belair Road not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name Real Estate Holding Business, Inc.

street and number 7531 Belair Road telephone

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21236-4102

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel m. 81, p. 96

city, town Towson liber 12492 folio 481

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	2
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	2
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	_____
			Total
			_____
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. BA-3071

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

The former single-family dwelling at 7531 Belair Road was constructed in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The two-and-a-half-story building is Queen Anne in style, displaying the distinctive irregular form, open pedimented gables, canted bay windows, and a corbeled chimney. The wood frame structure is set on a raised foundation of poured concrete that has been parged and is clad with asbestos shingles. Open pedimented gables augment the cross gable roof, which is clad with slate tiles. The overhang of the roof is trimmed with an ovolo-molded cornice, a smooth soffitt, and quadrant bead bed molding. An interior brick chimney with an ornate corbeled cap is located in the center of the main block. Stylistically, the vernacular building draws from the Queen Anne style with its now-enclosed porch, molded cornice, elongated openings, and form. A one-story hipped roof garage, dating from the 1920s, is located to the south of the building. A one-story commercial structure has been added to the west corner of the building. The building is one of several freestanding single-family dwellings on Belair Road and Marks Avenue, a dead end street in the rural community of Fullerton.

### EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The façade of the building fronts Belair Road to the northwest, consisting of the main block of the dwelling and the one-story commercial addition. The projecting main block, set within a front gable, is three bays wide and one bay deep. The first story historically had a wrap-around porch that has since been enclosed and partially removed. The enclosure of the porch, which remains on this projecting gable, has four 1/1 double-hung, metal sash windows. This continuous row of windows is set within molded wood surrounds and topped by four-light fixed transoms. Below the windows, the former porch has a solid balustrade clad with asbestos shingles. A single-leaf entry door with lights and panels allows access to the enclosed porch. A half-hipped roof clad with asphalt shingles covers the porch. The second story of the projecting bay has three equally spaced 1/1 double-hung, metal sash windows with wide molded surrounds. A pair of 1/1 double-hung, metal sash windows illuminates the half-story of the gable. A shed roof dormer with a single 1/1 double-hung, metal sash window protrudes from the southwest side of the projecting gable.

The western corner of the building, presenting an L-shape, has been altered by the construction of a one-story wood frame addition that has since been augmented by a brick clad commercial storefront. This storefront is clad with a six-course Flemish bond brick veneer. The northwest elevation of the brick clad addition has a long rectangular picture window with metal surrounds and the single-leaf entry door. The door has nine-lights over a cross panel, and is accessed by brick steps with a metal rail. The northeast and southwest sides of this brick clad storefront have small multi-light glass block windows with brick rowlock sills. The wood frame addition is set on a solid stone foundation that has been parged. It is covered with asbestos shingles, trimmed by an ogee-molded cornice, and has a flat roof. The sides of the addition have two equally spaced 1/1 double-hung, metal window openings with wide wood surrounds that have been covered with metal. Two basement level windows are symmetrically aligned. These rectangular openings hold two-light fixed windows with wood sills.

Over the additions, a single window opening is visible on the second floor of the main block. This opening has a 1/1 double-hung, metal window with a wide surround clad in metal.

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The southwest elevation of the main block is symmetrically fenestrated with 1/1 double-hung, metal sash windows on the first and second stories, as well as the gable end. A single two-story bay at the south corner of the southeast elevation of the main block has extended the wall to two bays. The material and form of this bay suggests it was original, although open on the first story. The continuous foundation visible on the southwest elevation is pierced by three rectangular openings, holding three-light fixed windows with wood sills. In the south corner bay are two large 1/1 double-hung, metal sash windows that wrap around the corner of the building. At the southeast elevation, the wrapping windows include a very narrow 1/1 double-hung, metal sash, a single-leaf entry, and larger 1/1 double-hung, metal sash window. The entry holds a multi-light paneled door with a single-light transom.

To the east of the entry on the southeast elevation is a single 1/1 double-hung, metal window. The two equally spaced 1/1 double-hung, metal windows on the second story balance this opening. A two-light fixed window is located on the northeast elevation of this projecting corner bay. The southeast elevation of the main block is pierced on the first and second stories by two 1/1 double-hung, wood sash windows. Two fixed windows, one with two lights and the other with three lights, illuminate the basement.

The northeast elevation consists of the main block and the projecting gable bay on the northwest elevation. This two bay wide elevation is symmetrically fenestrated with single window openings and a canted bay window. The foundation is pierced by three window openings, two with three lights and one with two lights. The canted bay in the main block has a half-hipped roof, clad with asphalt shingles. Covered with asbestos shingles, the bay has three 1/1 double-hung, metal window openings. Symmetrically placed above is a 1/1 double-hung, metal window that is balanced by a smaller 1/1 double-hung, metal window in the gable end. The first and second stories of the projecting bay have single 1/1 double-hung, metal windows.

The interior of the building was not accessible at the time of the survey.

A one-story masonry garage, dating from the mid-1920s, is located to the south of the former dwelling. This structure is constructed of rock-faced concrete blocks. A wide replacement garage door is located on the northwest elevation. The hipped roof is clad with asphalt shingles and has exposed rafter ends. Patented in 1900, rock-faced concrete block instantly became one of the leading building materials in the United States. The concrete blocks were a cheap, quick, and easy alternative to more traditional materials, with a block costing between thirteen and twenty cents to make in 1910. Advertisers also pointed out that it was fireproof, required no paint, and needed little care. Notwithstanding all these advantages, one of the most important reasons for the

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popularity of concrete block was its ornamental possibilities.<sup>1</sup> A combination of changes in both taste and technology in the 1930s led the industry to shift production to the more utilitarian and less decorative plainface block.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Pamela H. Simpson, *Cheap, Quick, and Easy: Imitative Architectural Materials, 1870-1930*. (Knoxville, TN: the University of Tennessee, 1999), p. 23.

<sup>2</sup> Simpson, p. 27.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**Specific dates** ca 1905-1950 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** ca 1905

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The former single-family dwelling at 7531 Belair Road was constructed circa 1905 in the newly developed neighborhood historically known as Fullerton. The community of Fullerton, since absorbed within the Baltimore City suburb of Overlea, was established on agricultural land owned in the 1870s by A. Deemer. Designed in the Queen Anne style, the building is one of a few extant dwellings that were designed and constructed by the developers in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The commercial development of Belair Road, which bounded Fullerton to the northwest, has resulted in the loss and/or alteration of many of these imposing dwellings. The property includes a commercial storefront and circa 1925 rock-faced concrete block garage.

### History of Fullerton

The history of the property in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century community of Fullerton dates back to the extension of Belair Road, which was initially laid in a northeasterly direction to the community of Bel Air from the City of Baltimore. As early as 1850, Belair Road was heavily developed and populated in the area immediately surrounding the city. Roughly ten miles away from the city, however, Belair Road was still not heavily populated. This area, where the road traversed White Marsh Run, was dotted by small farms, with only a very few buildings set close to the road. Primarily members of the Fitch and Fowler families inhabited this land in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. As the city of Baltimore expanded beyond its existing limits, this land became one of its primary suburbs.<sup>3</sup>

By the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Belair Road/White Marsh Run area was still without a name, and the nearest post office was located in the neighboring community of Parkville. Parkville, home to the Lavender Hill Post Office, was situated a short distance to the northwest along the Harford Turnpike. Nonetheless, the area was beginning to develop with oddly shaped lots and irregular street patterns.<sup>4</sup> The 1877 county map indicates the property destined to become Fullerton was owned and/or occupied by A. Deemer. As indicated by the map, the land had not yet been subdivided into smaller residential lots and was improved with only one residential building that was located at the southeast corner of Belair Road and Fullerton Avenue.

<sup>3</sup> J. C. Sidney, *Map of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, from Actual Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: J. M. Stephens, 1850), n.p.

<sup>4</sup> *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), District Twelve.

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Between 1877 and 1915, Deemer's land was platted to include roughly twenty small residential lots. It was at this time that Marks Avenue was outlined to run parallel to Belair Road and then dead-end roughly halfway through the development known as Fullerton. Half of the residential lots created from Deemer's property fronted Belair Road, with the remaining lots on Marks Avenue. Deemer's dwelling at the corner of the property was retained during the subdivision and development of Fullerton. Surrounding neighborhoods that developed during this period include Overton, South Overlea, Overlea Park, and the Addition to Overlea.<sup>5</sup>

The Fullerton development has changed significantly since its original platting in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nine of the Fullerton lots facing northwest on Belair Road were improved with residential structures by 1915. However, only one building from this period is extant – the former dwelling at 7531 Belair Road. This wood frame dwelling was substantially altered in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century by the construction of a commercial storefront, an alteration that is indicative of the transition of this part of Belair Road from a residential community to a mixed-use area bisected by a major transportation corridor. The contemporary residential buildings fronting Belair Road have been demolished in order to construct commercial properties and parking lots.

In contrast, the lots fronting Marks Avenue have remained largely residential in character. Between five and ten dwellings on the southeast half of the Fullerton development date to the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These freestanding dwellings are interspersed by lots that were not developed until the 1940s and 1950s. To the east of Fullerton, across Marks Avenue, the land is sparsely developed with few residential building. It was used primarily for agricultural purposes, and has since been developed as a recreational park for the community.

With the growth of the adjacent community of Overlea to the south, the historic neighborhood of Fullerton has been absorbed and has largely lost its individual context. Overlea has continued to develop residentially and commercially. As the City of Baltimore increased in size through annexation of its suburbs, Overlea's distance from the city diminished. Thus, Overlea is now less than one mile from the city limits. This 20<sup>th</sup> century development has resulted in a considerable loss of area's late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings and businesses. Within the last twenty years, the properties just north of those on Marks Avenue were demolished for the construction of a gas station/convenience store at the intersection Belair Road and Henry Avenue. The turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century reveals continued development of this Baltimore suburb. A smaller community that has taken the name Fullerton has since developed along Belair Road, to the north of the Baltimore Beltway.

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<sup>5</sup> *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915), Districts Eleven and Fourteen.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. BA-3071

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), District Twelve.  
Hollifield, William. *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County*. Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978.  
*Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915), Districts Eleven and Fourteen.  
Offutt, E. Frances. *Baltimore County Landmarks*. Towson, MD: Baltimore County Public Library, 1971).  
Sidney J. C. *Map of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, from Actual Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: J. M. Stephens, 1850.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acree of surveyed property Less than one Acre  
Acree of historical setting Less than one Acre  
Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The building at 7531 Belair Road in historic Fullerton (now Overlea) is located on Parcel 96 as denoted on Map 81, Grid 16. The property is bounded by Marks Avenue to the south and Belair Avenue to the north. The dwelling has been associated with this property since its construction circa 1905.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	A. L. McDonald and L. V. Trieschmann, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics	date	August 30, 2000
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



BA-3071

7531 BELAIR ROAD, OVERLEA  
BALTIMORE COUNTY  
TRACERIES

8/2000

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTHWEST ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

1 OF 4



BA-3071

7531 BELAIR ROAD, OVERLEA

BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

8/2000

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTH

2 OF 4



BA-3071

7531 BELAIR ROAD, OVERLEA

BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

8/2000

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTHEAST ELEVATION, LOOKING WEST

3 OF 4



BA-3071

7531 BELAIR ROAD, OVERLEA

BALTIMORE COUNTY

TRACERIES

8/2000

MARYLAND SHPO

GARAGE, LOOKING EAST

4 OF 4