

Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission
Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. BA-755

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 1. Reter-House (cross-gabled), or Pennington-Bay House
2. Townsend-Reter House (Mansard-roofed)
and/or common 3. Wheeler-Reter Store Building

2. Location

street & number 4819, 4825 Butler Road; 13-15 Railroad Avenue not for publication

city, town Glyndon vicinity of Councilmanic District 3
congressional district 3

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mr. James E. Reter, Mr. Calvin K. Reter, et al.

street & number 4 Butler Road telephone no.:

city, town Glyndon state and zip code MD 21071

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building liber 6240
432

street & number 401 Besley Avenue folio

city, town Towson state MD 21204

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Histeric Glyndon Survey for National Register District

date 1973 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. BA-755

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved date of move _____

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

The parcel under discussion contains three distinct structures:

1. Townsend-Reter House (Mansard roofed house or Gore Boarding House (BA 755), a frame, three-story Victorian era, Mansard roofed dwelling with wrap-around porch.
2. Pennington House, or Reter House, cross-gabled house. A 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ story house of the Victorian era built of frame with aluminum siding; small one-bay entrance porch has replaced the original full-width porch. There is a round-topped window in the gable peak. (BA-).
3. Wheeler-Reter Store Building. (BA-). This is a brick store structure on of one story; its gable roofing is obscured in front by a decorative parapet. The south end probably dates from about 1910; tax lists report an expansion in 1915.

8. Significance

Survey No.

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 **1872 thru 1910** Builder/Architect **S.P. Townsend, etc.**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

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

This property contains three distinct buildings:

1. **Townsend-Reter House (Mansard-Roofed).** The spacious boarding house was built after 1872 by Glyndon's merchant, postmaster, and railroad agent Samuel P. Townsend, supposedly for a client, Mrs. Laura Gore, who catered to summer boarders when Glyndon was a resort along the Western Maryland Railroad. ¹ Mr. Townsend declined the honor of having the rapidly developing town named after himself. He boarded at the Gore establishment until his own spacious home was completed, or at least it is recorded in Glyndon's centennial history.

Deeds show that Townsend had acquired a large acreage in 1872 from Dr. Charles A. Leas, one of the other pioneers of Glyndon's development as a prestigious subdivision. ²

The 1877 atlas shows three houses in a row on the south side of Dover Road, now Butler Road, apparently the mansard-roofed house and the cross-gabled house to the east of it. In 1891, Townsend and his wife sold the mansard house to Laura E. Gore, and she held it for 12 years. ³

The large house is clearly indicated as L. V. Gore's in the 1898 edition of Bromley's Baltimore County atlas, Plate 30. The property also contained a "hall," once called Townsend Hall, along with what was probably a general store. The regrading of the Western Maryland Railroad in 1907 caused a shift in the alignment of the tracks and caused a move of some buildings, apparently causing the demolition of the first store. The train stop area looks somewhat different in the 1915 edition of Bromley's atlas, Plate 42.

In 1903, Mrs. Gore, a widow, sold the property to George C. Schriver and Charles C. Schuster. ⁴ These partners sold in 1905 to William A. Kingsley, who held for four years. ⁵

Edward E. Wheeler bought the place in 1909 and was still owner in 1918, when the following structures were assessed:

1-3/8 Ac 100 ft from W.M.R.R. Sta, Glyndon	\$1,375
House 40 x 38 20 x 40	1,400
Store Bldg 20 x 45 30 x 70	5,040
Warehouse 30 x 40	575
Stable 43 x 22	240
Other Bldgs	30 6

Successive owners were:

David Wilder & Samuel Shochet	(1925)
Glyndon Dept. Store, Inc.	(1926)
Glyndon Stores, Inc.	(1930)
William H. and Susie R. Reter	(1945)
Calvin K. and James Reter et al.	(19)

2. Wheeler-Reter Store (BA-) This brick store on Railroad Avenue was probably built in 1907-1940 after Townsend's earlier store was demolished by the realignment of the Western Maryland Railroad about 1907. The store was assessed at \$1,800 in the 1911 tax ledger, and a correction made in that account book showed:

New Addition to Store Bldg	\$600.	7
1915		

By 1918, the store was worth \$5,040 and measured 20 x 45 in one part and 30 x 70 feet in another part, suggesting major expansion after the \$600 worth of additions made in or before 1915. 8

A photo dated at ca. 1910 was published in the Sun during Glyndon's centennial celebration. 9 Shown in the view were Ed Wheeler, Pat Tawney, Gilbert Tillman, Lester Wheeler, and Morris Stump. Signs advertised Yellowstone Park brand five-cent cigars. 9

The store ownership has followed the same descent as the mansard-roofed house. William H. and Susie R. Reter bought both properties in 1945. 10

William H. Reter was a native of Sparks and had earlier operated a grocery store at Owings Mills. In 1966, he retired in favor of his sons and lived until 1978. 11

In 1947, the Reters acquired the house to the east, the former Pennington-Bay house on Lot 10. 12

The store closed in 1988.

3. Pennington-Bay House/ Reter House (cross-gabled) (BA-). The small carpenter Gothic, cross-gabled house stands on Lot 10 in the early plat of Glyndon. The larger parcel was acquired by Samuel P. Townsend in 1872. ¹³ A house seems to occupy this space in the Fourth District map in the 1877 Hopkins atlas, although the scale of that map is too small to permit measurements. In 1883, Townsend sold to Isabella A. Pennington for \$500, subject to a \$30/annum ground rent. ¹⁴ The surviving house may indeed be covered by the \$500 consideration in that sale. The Pennington family was active in the lumber business in town and Robert H. Pennington was an atlas advertiser in 1877.

The 1898 Bromley atlas showed that Isabella A. Reed [actually the former Isabella Pennington] ⁷ was owner of the structure. She sold in 1909 to A. Melvin and Emily Bay. ¹⁵

The house was assessed at \$2,000 in the 1911 tax ledger. ¹⁶

In 1918, it was assessed at \$1,726 and measured 36 x 31 and 20 x 16. There was also a barn, 20 x 50, worth \$200. ¹⁷

A. Melvin Bay died in 1940 and F. Emily Bay in 1942. Their executor sold to Henry C. Porter in 1942. ¹⁸ The Porters sold in 1947 to their next-door neighbors, William H. and Susie R. Reter. ¹⁹

At some point, this house lost its full-width front porch.

The three structures are across Butler Road from a shopping center that was designed to fit into the Victorian theme of the over-all National Register Historic District of which they are a part.

NOTES:

1. Myrtle S. Eckhardt, The Story of Glyndon 1871-1971 (Glyndon, 1971), pp. 4-6.
2. Baltimore County Deeds, EHA 78:310.
3. B.C. Deeds, JWS 188:580.
4. B.C. Deeds, NBM 265:576.
5. B.C. Deeds, WPC 290:37.
6. B.C. Tax Ledgers, District 4 & 5, 1918, f. 536.
7. B.C. Tax Ledgers, Districts 4 & 5, 1911, f. 465.
8. B.C. Tax Ledgers, Districts 4 & 5, 1918, f. 556.
9. Earl Arnett, "100th Birthday, Glyndon Maintains Aura of the Turn of the Century," Sun, September 8, 1971, p. B-1.

10. B.C. Deeds, RJS 1399:310.
11. "W.H. Reter, 79, of Glyndon," obit., Evening Sun, June 5, 1978.
12. B.C. Deeds, JWB 1583:473.
13. B.C. Deeds, EHA 78:310.
14. B.C. Deeds, WMI 139:233.
15. B.C. Deeds, WPC 352:241.
16. B.C. Tax Ledgers, Districts 4 & 5, 1911, f. 19.
17. B.C. Tax Ledgers, Districts 4 & 5, 1918, f. 20.
18. B.C. Deeds, CHK 1265:41.
19. B.C. Deeds, JWB 1583:473.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA-755

Myrtle S. Eckhardt, The Story of Glyndon 1871-1971 (Glyndon, 1971), pp. 4-6.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.13Quadrangle name ReisterstownQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

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

See Tax Map 48, Parcel 599. Irregular parcel bounded on north by Butler Road, on west by Railroad Avenue.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrainorganization Office of Planningdate January 3, 1989street & number 401 Bosley Avenuetelephone 887-3495city or town Towsonstate MD 21204

IMPROVEMENTS AT EMORY GROVE.—Several buildings are in course of erection at Emory Grove, on the Western Maryland railroad, near the celebrated camp-meeting ground of that name. Among them is one for Mr. S. P. Townsend, which is intended as a summer boarding house, and will be handsomely fitted up for that purpose. This gentleman has also recently completed a large and handsome storehouse, which was opened lately with a "house-warming" jollification, participated in by nearly all the neighborhood. The building is very commodious, containing besides the store-room, railroad waiting-room, an Adams express office, and a postoffice. Connected with it is a lumber and coal yard, the whole being under the management of Mr. E. H. Pennington.

--Baltimore County Union, April 17, 1875

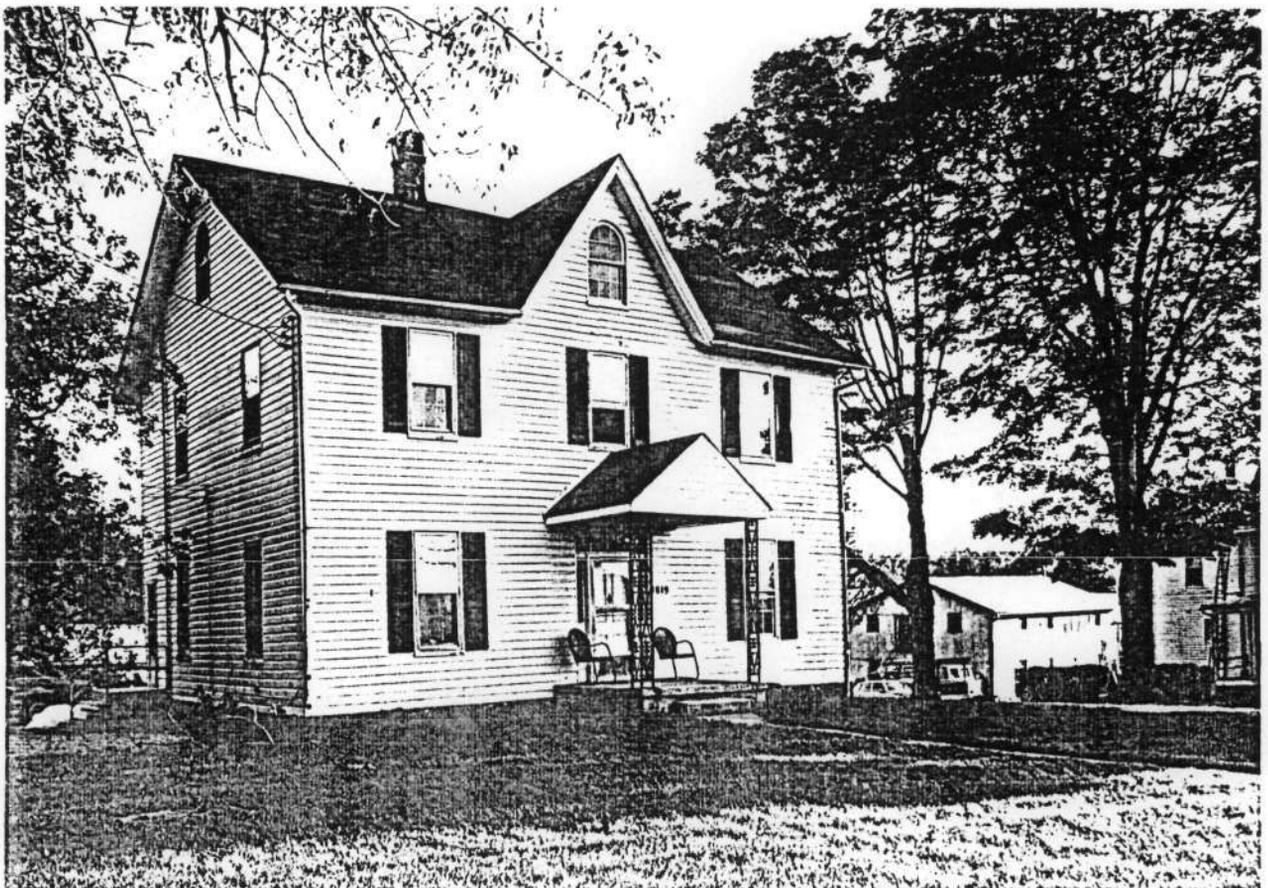
"The store of Mr. Townsend, at Emory Grove, Western Maryland railroad, was broken into on Tuesday night of last week and robbed of a small amount of money. A colored man is the suspected thief."

--B.C. Union, October 19, 1878

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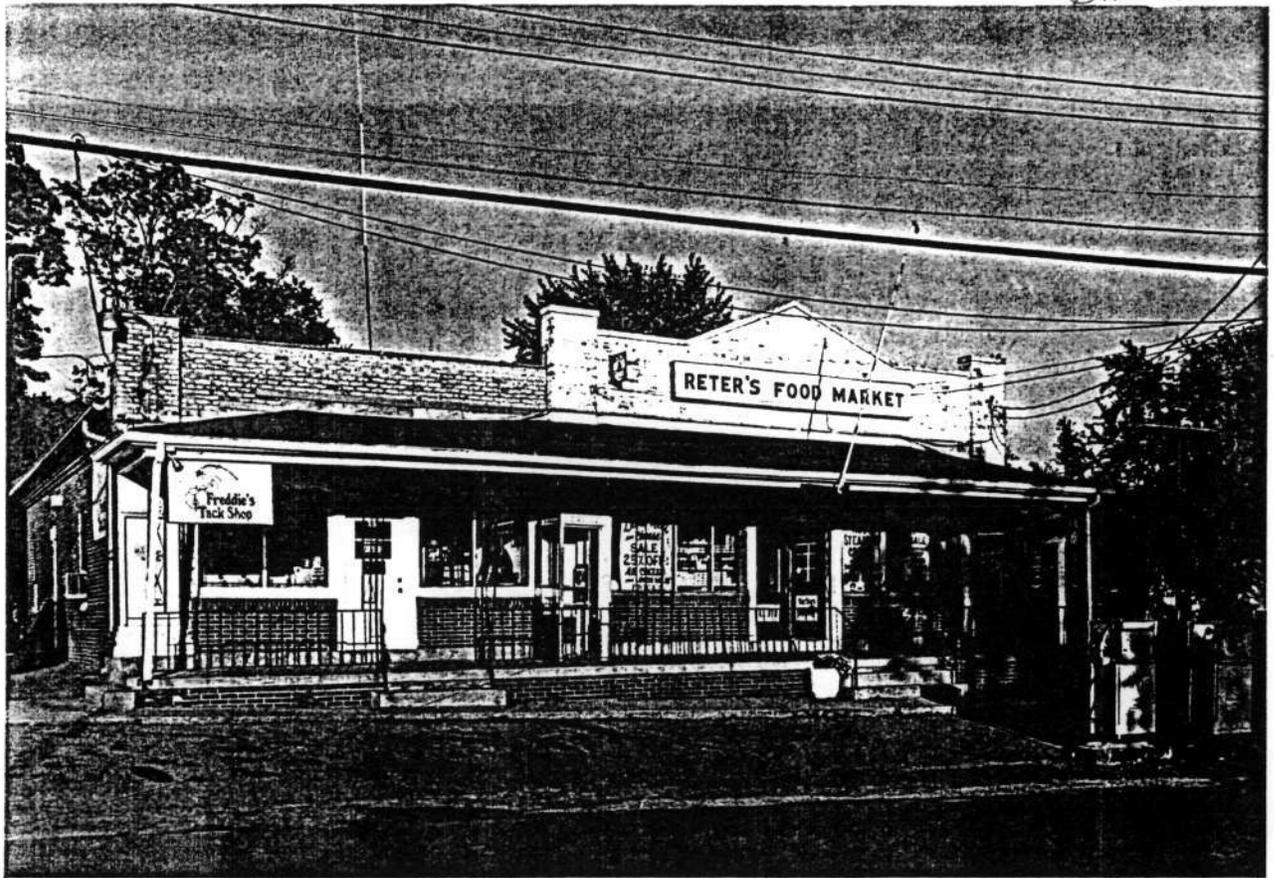
BA 755. Townsend-Reter House, Mansard-Roofed House



Reter House (cross-gabled), Pennington-Bay House

House 7 Boarding House on Butler Road, Glyndon

BA-755



Wheeler-Reter Store



photo, Sun, Sept. 8, 1971.

Photo submitted

Shown around 1910, Reter's Food Market was then E. G. Wheeler & Son General Merchandise. Above from left, proprietor E.H. Wheeler-

his son, Lester (with necktie); and clerks Pete Towney, Gilbert Tillman (knickers) and Morris Stump.

Store on Railroad Avenue, Glyndon

BA-755
Reter Houses (Pennington-Bay House), Townsend-Reter House and Wheeler-Reter Store Building
4819, 4825 Butler Road (MD 128) & 13-15 Railroad Avenue
Glyndon
Reisterstown Quadrangle
Baltimore County

