BA-2359

Stevenson House, (Hessian-Cronin House)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 08-16-2012

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-2359
Stevenson House
1600 West Joppa Road
Baltimore, Baltimore County
Ca. 1898
Private

Constructed circa 1898, the Stevenson House is located in Riderwood in the Eighth District of Baltimore County. The house first appears on the 1898 atlas, which shows the dwelling as occupied by Elizabeth Stevenson. Stevenson later married John W. Hessian, Jr., and the house remained in the Hessian family until 1984. Despite her having married Hessian, the property continues to be referred to as the Stevenson Estate on the 1915 Bromley Atlas of Baltimore County.

The Stevenson House is located on the northwest corner of West Joppa Road and Bellona Avenue. The suburban lot is surrounded by a wood fence and is situated near the railroad tracks and Riderwood Station (BA-2141). Rising two-and-a-half stories in height, the Queen Ann-style house is clad in vinyl siding and is set on a random rubble stone foundation. The main entry consists of a paneled, single-leaf wood door with three-light-and panel sidelights and a three-light transom. To the west of the entry, there are two full-height 9/2 windows with square-edged wood surrounds and sills. Like the first story, there are two 9/2 windows piercing the second story. The façade or south elevation also has an imposing gable peak with vinyl fishscale shingles and paired 3/3 windows. A central interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap rises from the side gable, asphalt shingle roof of the main block. A one-story addition stands to the east of the main block and is two-bays wide along the façade. It features two eight-light, double-leaf doors, a cinderblock foundation, vinyl siding, a central interior brick chimney, and a flat roof with a rooftop balustrade. The wrap-around, one story porch extends six bays across the façade of the main block and addition. Supported by turned wood posts, the porch has a shed roof with a center gable peak. To the rear of the house, there is a smokehouse that is contemporary to the dwelling.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2359

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic	Stevenson House (preferred)
other	Hessian-Cronin House

2. Location

street and number	1600 West Joppa Road	__ not for publication
city, town	Towson	__ vicinity
county	Baltimore County	

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

name	Raymond C. and Karen B. Cronin				
street and number	1600 West Joppa Road			telephone	Not Available
city, town	Towson	state	MD	zip code	21204-1952

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Baltimore County Courthouse			liber	8721	folio	171
city, town	Towson	tax map 69	tax parcel	15	tax ID number	2200005362	

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
__ district
X building(s)
__ structure
__ site
__ object

Ownership
__ public
X private
__ both

Current Function
__ agriculture
__ commerce/trade
__ defense
X domestic
__ education
__ funerary
__ government
__ health care
__ industry
__ landscape
__ recreation/culture
__ religion
__ social
__ transportation
__ work in progress
__ unknown
__ vacant/not in use
__ other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
2	1	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2359

Condition

___ excellent ___ deteriorated
___ good ___ ruins
___ fair ___ altered

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

The Stevenson House, constructed circa 1898, is located on the northwest corner of West Joppa Road and Bellona Avenue. The suburban lot is surrounded by a wood fence and is situated near the railroad tracks and Riderwood Station (BA-2141). Rising two-and-a-half stories in height, the Queen Ann-style house is clad in vinyl siding and is set on a random rubble stone foundation. The main entry consists of a paneled, single-leaf wood door with three-light-and panel sidelights and a three-light transom. To the west of the entry, there are two full-height 9/2 windows with square-edged wood surrounds and sills. Like the first story, there are two 9/2 windows piercing the second story. The façade or south elevation also has an imposing gable peak with vinyl fishscale shingles and paired 3/3 windows. A central interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap rises from the side gable, asphalt shingle roof of the main block. A one-story addition stands to the east of the main block and is two-bays wide along the façade. It features two eight-light, double-leaf doors, a cinderblock foundation, vinyl siding, a central interior brick chimney, and a flat roof with a rooftop balustrade. The wrap-around, one story porch extends six bays across the façade of the main block and addition. Supported by turned wood posts, the porch has a shed roof with a center gable peak.

To the rear of the house, there is a smokehouse that is contemporary to the dwelling. Clad in vinyl siding, the smokehouse has a hipped roof with slate tiles and round-arched louvered ventilators.

There is also a 1980s tree house with a flat wood platform, a ladder, and a rope balustrade.

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8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2359

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

Specific dates 1898 ca., 1984 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1898 ca.

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____Maryland Register ____X____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.)

Constructed circa 1898, the Stevenson House is located in Riderwood in the Eighth District of Baltimore County. The house first appears on the 1898 atlas, which shows the dwelling as occupied by Elizabeth Stevenson. Stevenson later married John W. Hessian, Jr., and the house remained in the Hessian family until 1984. Despite her having married Hessian, the property continues to be referred to as the Stevenson Estate on the 1915 Bromley Atlas of Baltimore County. The land now encompassing the community formerly known as Riderwood Station and Post Office began to take shape as early as 1850, when the Northern Central Railroad extended north roughly parallel with the present Bellona Avenue and intersected with West Joppa Road. The town took its name from the Rider family, who owned significant amounts of land at this intersection. The 1850 county atlas reveals the land as improved with a cotton mill, general store, schoolhouse, and Hunt's Meetinghouse.[1] The farms that traversed the landscape were subdivided over the next twenty-seven years, and by 1877, many additional dwellings had been constructed in the area.[2] Located west of Towson and south of Lutherville, Riderwood appears to have been the location of a few country houses owned by wealthy families. The Walnut Hill, Chestnut Summit, and Rider family estates were located here. The 1915 county atlas confirms that Riderwood was a suburban residential community along the railroad line.[3] By 1915, several large suburban estates fronted West Joppa Road and Bellona Avenue, and the area retains its turn-of-the-20th-century character.

[1] J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).
[2] *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).
[3] *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2359

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	.59 Acre		
Acreage of historical setting	Unknown		
Quadrangle name	Cockeysville	Quadrangle scale:	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Stevenson House is located at 1600 West Joppa Road in Riderwood in the Eighth District of Baltimore County. It has been associated with Tax Map 69, Parcel 15 since its construction circa 1898.

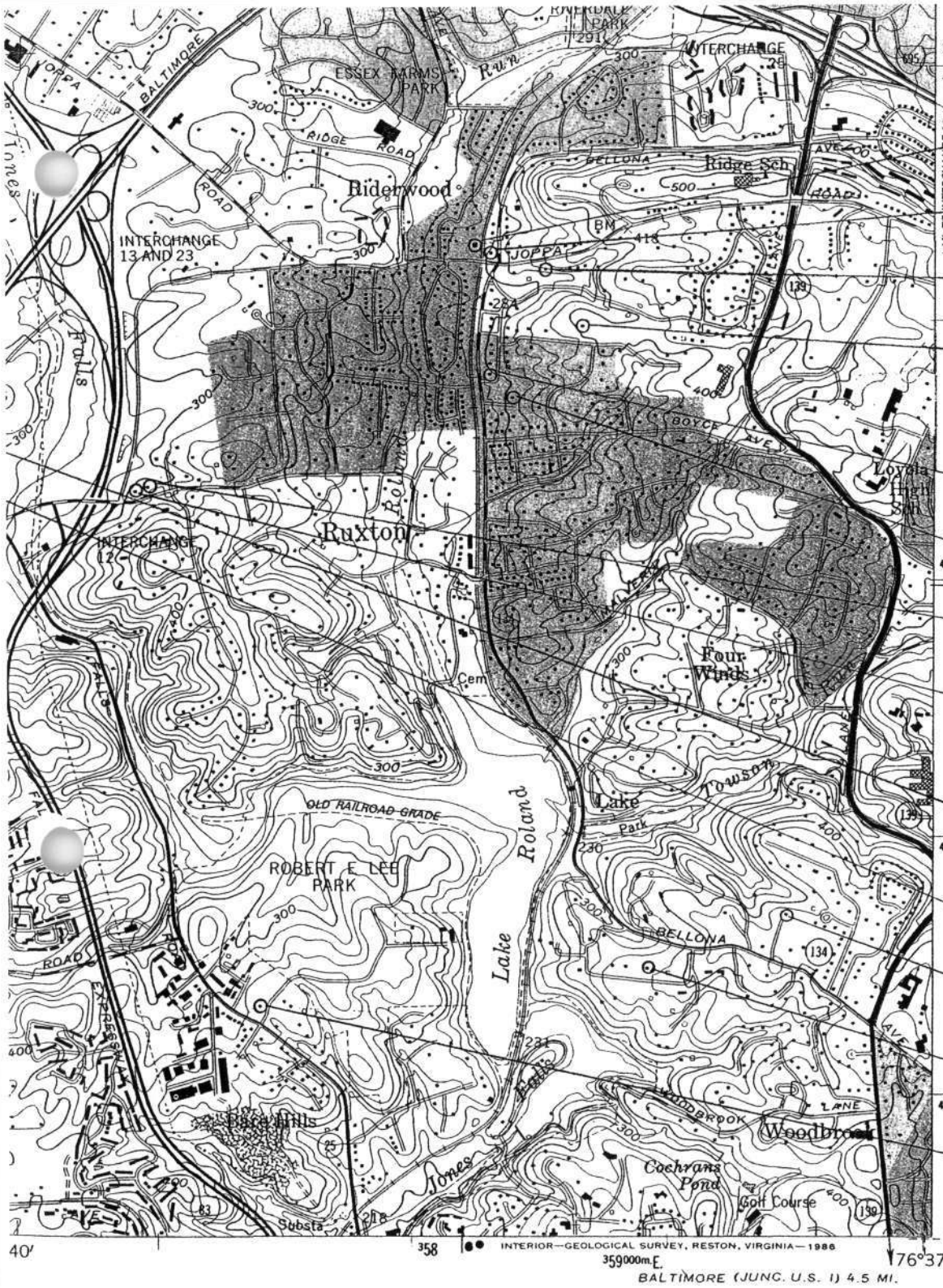
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 21, 2001
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

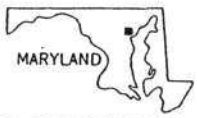


ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty — Light-duty

Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt

Interstate Route — U. S. Route — State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

COCKEYSVILLE, MD.

39076-D6-TF-024

1957

PHOTOREVISED 1986

DMA 5662 I NW—SERIES V833

evisions shown in purple and woodland compiled by the
eological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1983
d other sources. This information not field checked
ap edited 1986

urple tint indicates extension of urban areas

BA-2359
STEVENSON HOUSE
1600 WEST JOPPA ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

EHT TRACERIES
APRIL 2001
MDSHPO
SOUTH ELEVATION
1 OF 3

BA-2359
STEVENSON HOUSE
1600 WEST JOPPA ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
EHT TRACERIES
APRIL 2001
MD SHPO
NORTHEAST CORNER
2 OF 3

BA-2359
STEVENSON HOUSE
1600 WEST JOPPA ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
EHT TRACERIES
APRIL 2001
MD SHPO
NORTHWEST CORNER
3 OF 3

BA-2359 **HESSIAN-CRONIC HOUSE (STEVENSON HOUSE)** - 1882-1898 - 1600 West Joppa Road, Riderwood. The Elizabeth Stevenson house shown in 1898 atlas. John W. Hessian, Jr., married Elizabeth Stevenson and the large frame house remained in the family until purchased by Ray Cronin in 1984. Built sometime after the 1882 map by Robinson. Fishscale shingles.