

The Fountain House  
117 Goldsborough Street  
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-285  
1854

A two-and-a-half story rectangular building with a central hall and gable roof, the Fountain House is made to appear important, even grand, by the use of wide weatherboarding and a two-story porch which greatly increase the scale of the structure. Set close to the street, the house achieves both intimacy and dominance, a fascinating and unusual combination. The dwelling was constructed about 1850 by Alexander Washington Fountain, an important merchant, and is still occupied by his descendants.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

2102895504

T-289

Town of Easton

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Fountain House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

117 Goldsborough Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

FIRST

STATE

Maryland 21601

COUNTY

Talbot

**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 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 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"/> NO       | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:                          |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

John Robert Fountain

Telephone #: 301-822-0144

STREET & NUMBER

117 Goldsborough Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21601

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Court House

Liber #: 172

Folio #: 286

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

| CONDITION                                     |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD                 | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR                 | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This house stands on the north side of Goldsborough Street in a neighborhood of mid to late nineteenth century dwellings.

The dwelling is a rectangular building with a rear ell and a two-story porch which extends across the front. The two-story structure is covered with a gable roof. A central hall plan structure, there is one room to either side of the stair hall and the main entrance is in the center bay. The building is three bays wide and two deep.

The two-story porch is the house's most outstanding feature. The first floor of the porch is original to the house; it has four massive, square columns which taper toward the top. They are enriched with molded bases and capitols. The structure of the second floor porch roof is enclosed in a box cornice. This shallow cornice is decorated with a crown mold and visually supported by many tiny ornamental brackets. The second floor porch has similiar columns which support the porch roof which is the house roof extended. The cornice used to finish the porch roof is bolder but similiar to that on the floor below. Elaborate wooden brackets with pendant drops are used; larger than the brackets below they are scaled to correspond to their important position at the roof. A simple balastrade with plain, closely spaced balusters is used on the second floor.

The first floor porch shelters the main entrance, which has both transom and sidelights. The original six panel door is in place.

Window and door openings are evenly spaced on the front facade. Here, and throughout the house, six over six sashes are used, secured by the narrow beaded frames commonly used in buildings of the first half of the nineteenth century. Louvered shutters, painted black are used at the window; they appear in early photographs and may be original.

The building is covered with weatherboarding painted white. It is of narrow, random width on the sides of the building and uniform (about seven inches) on the front. The flat unmolded corner boards and cornice give the structure a solid; compact quality. The cornice is quite bold; it is a box cornice with crown mold and bedmold. There is a return enhanced at the front corners with a scroll-type bracket and extra molding which makes the corner boards appear to be pilasters. Brick chimneys with corbel caps rise in the center of the gables; at each side of the chimney in the attic is a small window with four over four sashes; although the upper corners of these windows cut into the frieze board, they appear to be original and tend to make the building appear taller.

On the interior of the dwelling has a generous center stair hall. Mantles are of marbelized slate which became popular in the middle to end of the nineteenth century. These mantles are similiar to those advertised by the Philadelphia firm of Wilson and Miller by 1853. The window and door frames are flat with deeply carved bull's eye corner blocks. Floors are parquet wood.

The house has had several alterations besides the front porch. A smaller porch on the west side is an addition as is the rear kitchen. The three shed dormers on the south roof slope were added along with the second floor of the porch. The building is beautifully maintained; it is used as a single family dwelling.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

T-289

| 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 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            1854                                    BUILDER/ARCHITECT            Alexander W. Fountain

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This structure is significant for its architecture. A building of the common central hall type, it is made to seem important, even grand, by the use of wide weatherboarding and double porch which both greatly increase the scale of the structure. Set close to the street, the building manages both an intimacy and a dominance, a fascinating and unusual combination of attributes.

The dwelling was constructed about 1854 by Alexander Washington Fountain, an important resident of the town who was both a carriage-maker and cabinet-maker. It has remained in the Fountain family to this day, and its evaluation as a building has been carefully recorded. A photograph of 1886 shows the structure very much as it is today, but without the three shed dormers and second floor of the porch, both of which were added in 1914.

The interior of the structure retains its original mantles, stair, window details and is a fine example of a town house of the mid-nineteenth century.

L65/F495

Reuben Tharp sold the parcel of land for this home to Alexander Washington Fountain in 1854 for \$200.00. This was a part of the total purchase, Lot 41 on the original plat of Easton. The property had belonged to the John Leeds Kerr family and it was his widow, Eliza, who sold them to Reuben Tharp. The property was later added to by Alexander Fountain in 1916.

L65/F425

L172/F286

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Deeds and Land Records, Talbot County Court House.  
Garey, George and Ellwood Patchett. History of Easton, (Easton, Maryland:  
Gazette Steam Book and Job Office), 1881. Reprinted by Historic Easton,  
Incorporated, January 1974.  
Photograph in collection of John R. Fountain.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY NA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

NA

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

|       |      |        |  |
|-------|------|--------|--|
| STATE | None | COUNTY |  |
| STATE |      | COUNTY |  |

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

|                 |                               |  |   |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| NAME / TITLE    |                               | Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant, Cynthia B. Ludlow, Research Historian |   |
| ORGANIZATION    | Historic Easton, Incorporated | DATE   | September 14, 1976                          |
| STREET & NUMBER | Box 1171                      | TELEPHONE  | Mr. Paul Parsons,<br>301-822-2706 President |
| CITY OR TOWN    | Easton                        | STATE  | Maryland 21601                              |

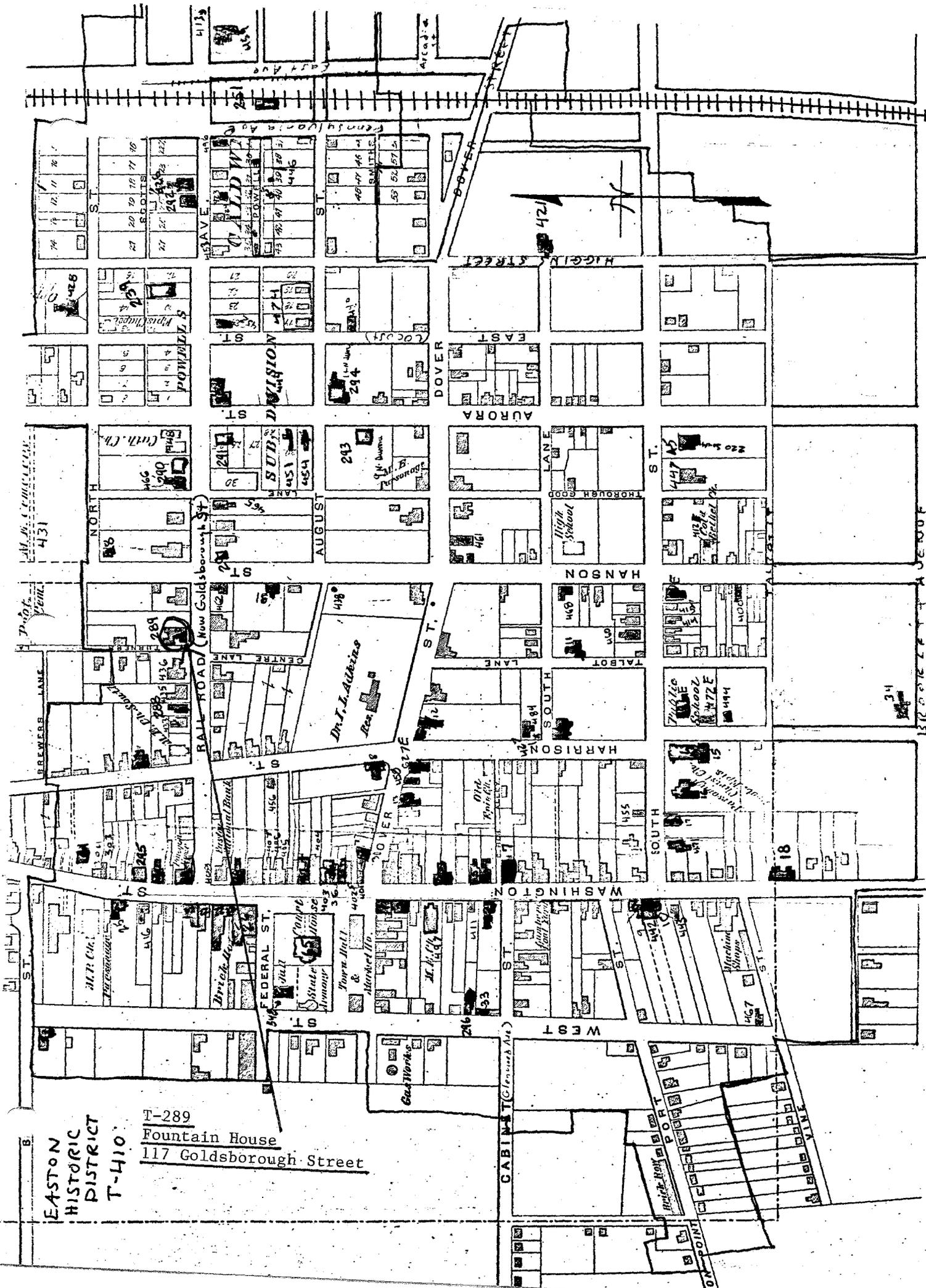
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

EASTON HISTORIC DISTRICT T-410

T-289 Fountain House 117 Goldsborough Street



Scale - 15 Rods to an inch

W.D. T-HIGDON'S EASTON - Talbot Co.

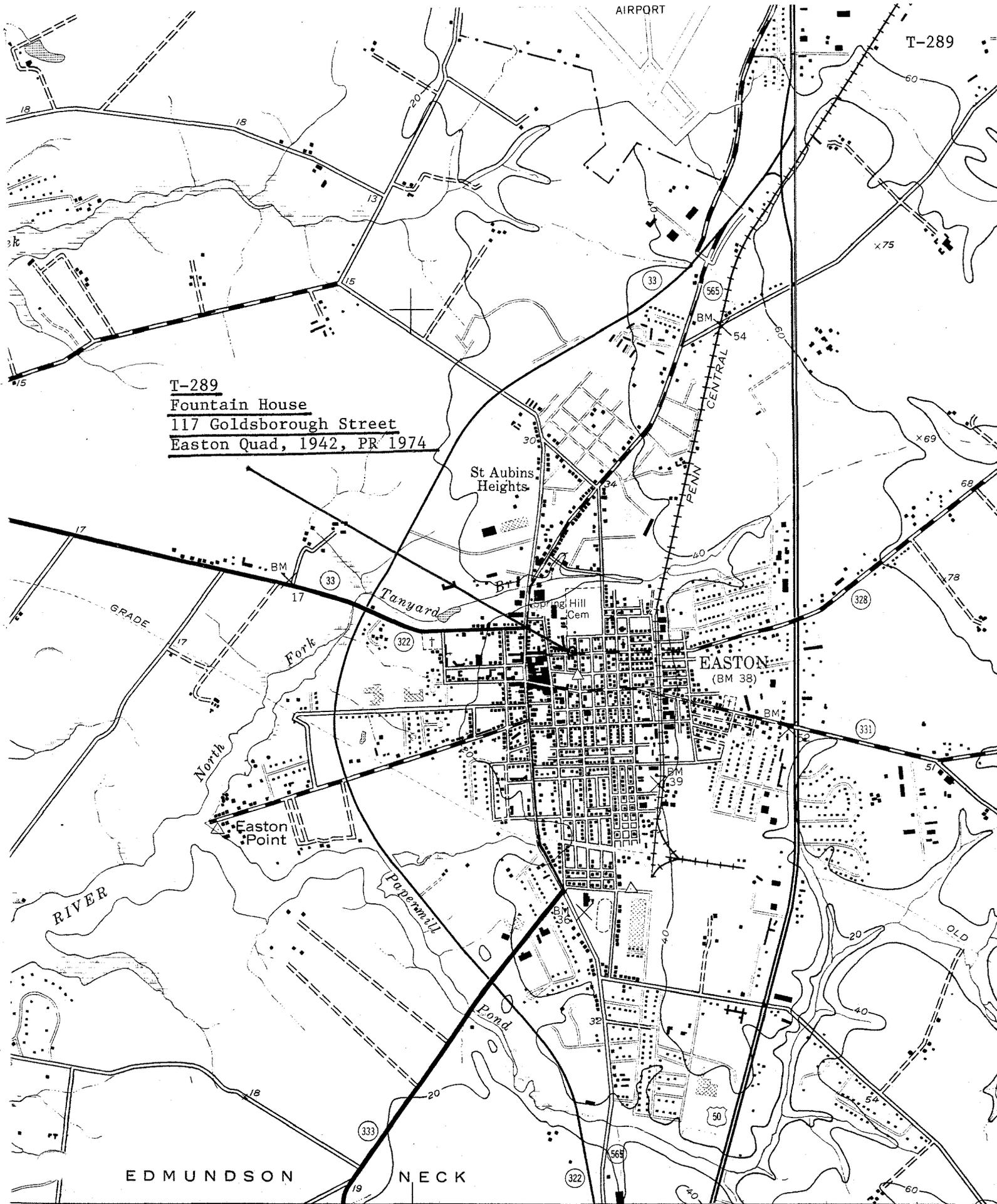
297

495

AIRPORT

T-289

T-289  
Fountain House  
117 Goldsborough Street  
Easton Quad, 1942, PR 1974



EDMUNDSON

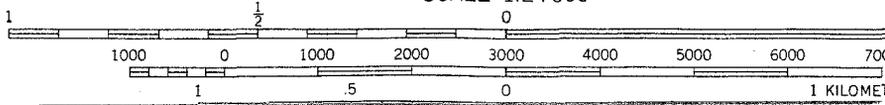
NECK

EASTON  
(BM 38)

STUMPTOWN 1.8 MI  
TRAPPE 6.7 MI.

(TRAPPE)  
5761 11 NE

SCALE 1:24 000



vey

metric methods





.15 x 1.60

50% 289

117 GOLDSBOROUGH

EASTON, MD

SOUTH FACADE

HLFRITZ

AUGUST 1976

~~T-445~~

T-289