

The William-Shannahan House  
402 Goldsborough Street  
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-453  
Mid Nineteenth Century

Reflecting the influence of two periods of architecture on a modest residence, the three bay main portion of this frame house is regular in form and restrained in its detailing. An 1878 addition, including the bay windows and the porches is more ornamental and picturesque. At the rear of the building is an elevator tower with an ogee roof and a large carriage house.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The William Shannahan House

AND/OR COMMON

Stephenson House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

402 Goldsborough Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

FIRST

STATE

Maryland 21601

COUNTY

Talbot

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Medical Office

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. and Mrs. Richard R. Stephenson

Telephone #: 301-822-7860

STREET & NUMBER

402 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 #: 450

Folio #: 633

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**

<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

This large frame structure stands on the southeast side corner of Goldsborough Street and Locust Lane. It is one of the largest houses in a neighborhood of moderate-sized dwellings constructed after the middle of the nineteenth century. The houses faces north.

This building is interesting for its additions, including wings, sheds, outbuildings and even a tower; it is covered with German ship lap siding painted white. The earliest portion of the structure is the two-story block nearest the corner. Probably constructed in the 1850's its form was common for that time: three bays wide with a side hall plan it is covered by a gable roof which facing the street. Ornamental features are limited to the door, the simple, bold cornice and return, a small ornamental window in the gable. The main entrance is of the type commonly ordered from a catalogue; it has a transom light and sidelights of clear glass.

The structure is quite wide; its width emphasized by the overhanging eaves and cornice with return trimmed with a cyma recta molding. Even the narrow, round arch double windows fail to de-emphasize the solid, horizontality of this block. Window openings, not precisely centered occur in each of the three bays. They have two over two sashes and narrow beaded trim; first floor windows are quite tall. Similiar windows are placed in sidewall bays. Windows have black louvered shutters.

The one-bay entrance porch is a replacement. An earlier porch extended across the front and had scroll-type brackets; its outline remains. The present porch has a pedimented gable roof carried by turned posts.

In 1878, the east wing was added by William Shannahan. Set at a right angle to the main block, it is also covered by a gable roof. A half-hexagonal bay window projects from the Goldsborough Street front. Covered by a gable roof, it has two over two sash windows in each face. The gable is infilled with imbricated shingles and the bay window is sheathed with vertical boarding articulated above and below the windows with small flaring projections resembling pent eaves. An identical bay window was inserted in the southern portion of the east wall.

A one-story porch was constructed at the east and south facades of the 1878 wing. Like a side porch at the west of the rear ell, it has an outstanding balastrade in which flat sawn ornament alternates with turned balusters. The south porch has been enclosed in the twentieth century and a second floor sun porch has been constructed above the west side porch.

To the rear is a two story wing may date from the earliest period. It is quite simple in detailing containing a dining room, upper bedroom and small enclosed service stair. Two kitchen sheds were added behind this wing and the side porch enlarged. In the twentieth century an elevator was between the east and south wings. It is a square tower with small, narrow windows and is topped by a metal covered ogee roof.

Typically mid and late nineteenth century residences in Easton had a large frame house set close to a major street with a deep yard extending to the rear alley. Frequently, a one-and-a-half story carriage house was

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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 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      Mid Nineteenth Century  
Addition - 1878      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This building is significant for its architecture. The house reflects the influence - in a modest residence - of two periods of nineteenth century architecture. The mid-century main house is regular in form and restrained in detail; the later portion exhibits more interest in the ornamental and the picturesque. The outbuildings are also good examples of their type.

Mr. William Shannahan who lived in the house for many years and added the east wing. He was one of the owners and founders of Shannahan-Wrightson Hardware Company, that well-known Easton commercial establishment, which operated from #12 North Washington Street (T-404) for many years.

L49/F633      Dr. Richard R. Stephenson and his wife purchased this dwelling in 1971 from Benjamin F. Stewart, his wife Mary Ann, and his brother Robert L. Stewart. The Safe Deposit and Trust Co. of Baltimore, acting as Trustees under the will of William B. Shannahan had sold the property in 1937 to Fred S. Lewis and his wife. Nida C. Stovell bought it in 1945 from the Lewises but sold it back the following year to Mr. Lewis and he made the sale to the Stewarts in 1957.

L239/F439  
L263/F173  
L264/F562  
L340/F294

There were three lots put together for the premises. Lot 35 was conveyed to M. Louise Shannahan, wife of William E. Shannahan, in 1877 by Robert B. Dixon and his wife. William E. Shannahan bought Lot 34 in 1878 from John L. Caldwell and conveyed it to his wife in 1885. The third portion, Lot 33, was added in 1896 by deed from Fredrick Flynn and his wife G. Maud. This gave them 150 feet frontage on the south side of Goldsborough St. and 130 feet depth to Powell's Alley. William E. Shannahan's widow died intestate and the property was devised to her sons William B. and E. McNeal Shannahan. E. McNeal Shannahan's half-interest was acquired by Kate E. Shannahan and the other half-interest came to her by the will of her husband, William B. in 1930.

L84/F105  
L86/F233  
L101/F63  
L127/F18  
L221/F448  
Will Rec.  
L21/F227

**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 for Job Offices), 1881. Reprinted by Historic Easton, Incorporated, January 1974.

Will Records, Talbot County Court House, Easton, Md.

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 29, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1171

TELEPHONE Mr. Paul Parsons,

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

T 453  
Town of Easton

402 Goldsborough Street  
Easton, Maryland 21601

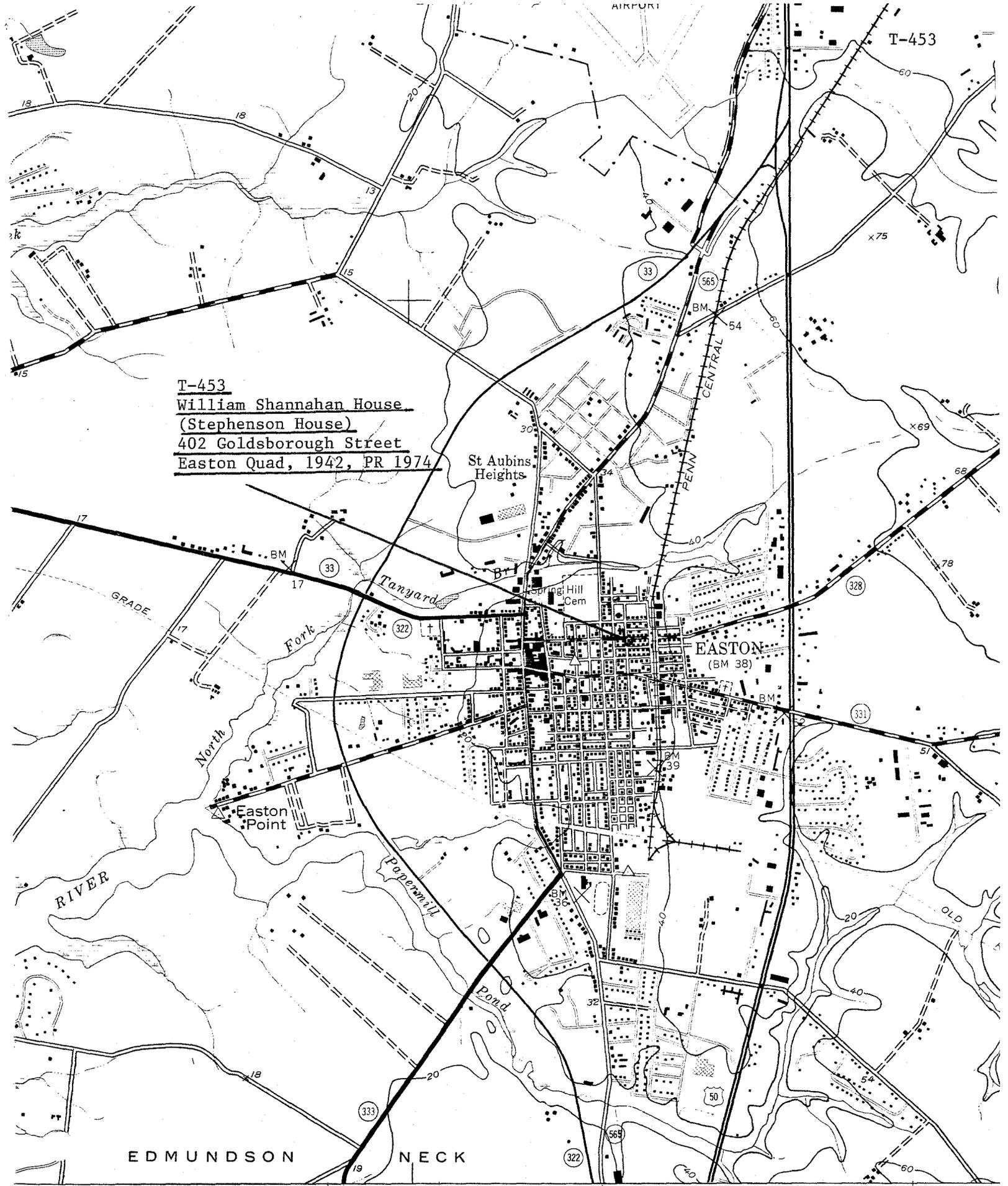
constructed adjacent to the alley with smaller outbuildings between. The Shannahan-Stephenson house is the one of the best remaining examples of this form of town house. The carriage house, now used as a medical office, is two bays wide and one-and-a-half stories high. Large carriage doors opening to Locust Lane; the upstairs was used as a servants quarters. The attractive A-roof structure is covered with German ship lap, now painted black. Also remaining is a one bay, A-roofed necessary.

The well-maintained structure is a private residence; the carriage house is used by its owner as a medical office.



T-453

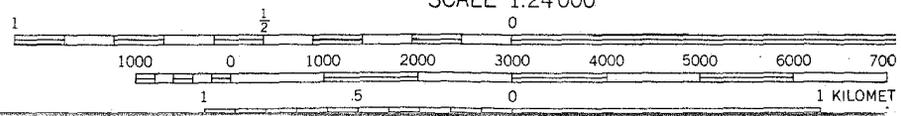
T-453  
William Shannahan House  
(Stephenson House)  
402 Goldsborough Street  
Easton Quad, 1942, PR 1974



EDMUNDSON NECK

404 1 060 000 FEET 5' 406 STUMPTOWN 1.8 MI. TRAPPE 6.7 MI. 407 (TRAPPE) 5761 II NE 408

SCALE 1:24 000



vey

metric methods



REAR

402 GOLDSBOROUGH 8/76

EASTON, MD.

H L FRITZ

T-453

F. R. VERNON - WILLIAMS, JR.  
510 DIAMOND STREET  
EASTON, MARYLAND 21601



453 75% 14 x 1.68

402 GOLDSBOROUGH STREET

T-453

EDSTON, MD

NORTH FAÇADE

AUGUST 1976

MURFITT