

WO-343

1949

Joseph Edward Collins House
Ocean City
Private

Built in 1949, the Joseph Edward Collins house is a rare example of the International style of architecture popularly executed during the second quarter of the twentieth century. The design features common to the style include flat roofs, a clear horizontality to the structure, asymmetrical plans, and horizontal bands of windows. The Collins house also incorporates rounded corners to the recessed entrance wall where one corner is comprised of glass blocks. The yellow brick house contrasts sharply with the other dwellings in Ocean City which follow basically colonial revival designs in the neighborhood of Baltimore and 7th Street.

Listed as a resident of Sussex County, Delaware in 1944, Joseph Edward Collins purchased this unimproved lot from May Potts Walton and Charles Walton, Jr. Collins financed the construction of this contemporary house about five years later, perhaps in an effort to imitate houses he knew in Florida. Joseph Edward Collins and his wife, Mabel E., finally sold their Ocean City house and lot in February of 1966 to Anthony H. Purnell. The Purnells owned the house until 1990 when it was transferred to George and Suzanne Hurley.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: Joseph Edward Collins House

MHT Inventory Number: No. - 343

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture

2) Geographic Orientation:

Eastern Shore

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Modern Period - 1930 - Present

4) Resource Type(s):

Standing Structure

1. Single-Family Dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic JOSEPH EDWARD COLLINS HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 710 Baltimore Avenue not for publication

city, town Ocean City vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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"/> 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 George and Suzanne Hurley

street & number 710 Baltimore Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Ocean City state and zip code MD 21842

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. WORCESTER COUNTY CLERK OF COURT liber 1103

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 424

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WO-343

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Joseph Edward Collins house stands at 710 Baltimore Avenue on the northeast corner of the intersection with Surf Avenue in Ocean City, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story brick house faces west.

Built in 1949, the two-story stretcher bond brick house is covered with a flat roof. The rectangular main block is extended on three sides with projecting sections; to the west is the recessed front entrance with a cantilevered second floor; to the south is a carport with another cantilevered room above; and to the north is an extension of the main block.

The west (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a centered recessed entrance flanked by a rounded glass block wall to the south. On the north side is a small rectangular window. Supporting the floor above is a narrow metal post. The southwest corner of the projecting front wall is pierced by a corner window with three vertical lights to each side. The second floor of this front section is pierced by a window wall with a rounded northwest corner. Marking the edge of the roof above is a series of projecting eave boards with tapered ends tied together by a flat board laid across the outer surface of each board. This decorative roof feature extends around the south side of the house.

The south side of the house incorporates an exterior chimney as well as a single car garage. Extending from the south side above the garage bay is a cantilevered room supported on metal posts. The chimney, featuring paved shoulders, rises west of the garage bay through the extended eave of the house. The chimney top is finished with a beveled mortar cap.

The north side of the house features a two-story one bay wide extension of the main block with the northwest corner of the second floor cut out for casement windows. The northwest corner of the main block is cut out on each floor for casement windows as well. Trimming the main roof is a pipe railing.

The east wall follows an asymmetrical fenestration with a central door and flanking windows.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-343

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1949 **Builder/Architect**

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.

Built in 1949, the Joseph Edward Collins house is a rare example of the International style of architecture popularly executed with flat roofs, horizontal designs with asymmetrical plans, and horizontal bands of windows. The Collins house also incorporates rounded corners to the recessed entrance wall where one corner is comprised of glass blocks. The yellow brick house contrasts sharply with the other dwellings in Ocean City which follow basically colonial revival designs in the neighborhood around Baltimore Avenue and 7th Street.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Listed as a resident of Sussex County, Delaware in 1944, Joseph Edward Collins purchased this unimproved lot from May Potts and Charles Walton, Jr. Collins financed the construction of this contemporary house about five years later, perhaps in an effort to imitate houses he knew in Florida. Joseph Edward Collins and his wife, Mabel E., finally sold their Ocean City house and lot in February of 1966 to Anthony H. Purnell (FWH 202/273). The Purnells owned the house until 1990 when it was transferred to George and Suzanne Hurley.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-343

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 3/7/90

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 301-651-1094

city or town Westover state MD 21871

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

WO-343
JOSEPH EDWARD COLLINS HOUSE
710 Baltimore Avenue
Ocean City, Maryland
Chain of title

WCL 1103/424

George A. Purnell, Personal Rep.
of the estate of Anthony H. Purnell

to

7/1/1985

Charles L. Stout, Raymond S.
Smethhurst, Jr. and George A.
Purnell, as trustees 8/6/1976
recorded in plat book ODC 1/14

FWH 202/273

Joseph Edward Collins, et ux.
Mabel E. Collins, both of Sussex Co.,
Delaware, but temporarily residing in
Broward Co., Florida

to

2/19/1966

Anthony H. Purnell
designated as all of Lot 3A and the
southerly one-half of Lot 2A on the
plat known as the Maryland Seashore
Corporation, Plat No. 1, ODC 1/14
10/28/1925, by William D. Pitts

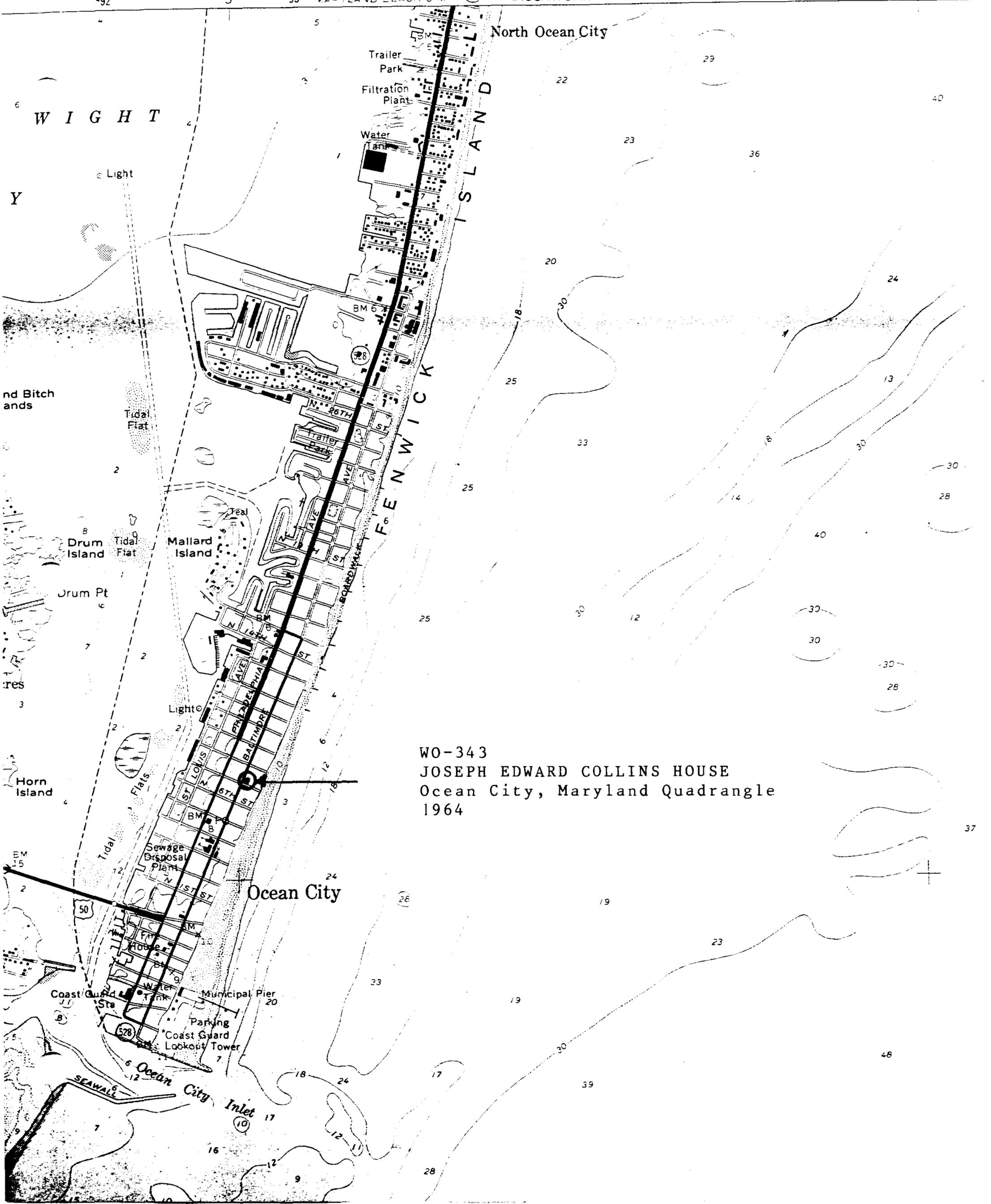
JEB 21/44

May Potts Walton and Charles S.
Walton, Jr. of the City of St. Davids,
Pennsylvania

to

9/25/1944

Joseph Edward Collins of Sussex Co.,
Delaware (designated section as
'Unimproved section of Baltimore Ave.')



WO-343
 JOSEPH EDWARD COLLINS HOUSE
 Ocean City, Maryland Quadrangle
 1964