CAPSULE SUMMARY
McCusker House
57 Cornhill Street
AA-453

The large freestanding dwelling, known as the McCusker House, is located at 57 Cornhill Street. The building originally consisted of two separate 18th-century buildings--a dwelling and detached kitchen--that were joined together in several phases throughout the 19th century to eventually form the single cohesive structure that stands on the site today. In ca. 1770, a two-story, hall-parlor house of frame construction, measuring 20 feet by 18 feet, was erected to face the newly laid Cornhill Street. During the early and mid-19th century, the house and kitchen were connected by two rear hyphens, and then around the turn of this century, owner John McCusker significantly altered the building by merging them together and renovating the interior with Victorian-period detailing.

As a result of the many alterations, the building includes architectural details from various periods of construction, including aspects of the kitchen dependency, a Federal-era stair hall, and Victorian-style marbleized mantels. For 107 years, three generations of the John McCusker family have owned and occupied the dwelling at 57 Cornhill Street.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. AA-453

1. Name of Property

historic name John McCusker House
common/other name

2. Location

street & number 57 Cornhill Street not for publication ___
city or town Annapolis vicinity __ state Maryland code MD
county Anne Arundel code 003 zip code 21401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

X private
____ public-local
____ public-State
____ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

1 building(s)
____ district
____ site
____ structure
____ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	____	buildings
____	____	sites
____	____	structures
____	____	objects
1	0	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?
Yes X Name of Listing Annapolis Historic District
No ___

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Domestic	Sub:	Single Dwelling
	Domestic		Secondary Structure

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Domestic	Sub:	Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone and Brick: Stuccoed
roof Gable: Asphalt Shingles
walls German Siding: Wood
other Beaded Weatherboard: Wood

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

____ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

_X_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

____ B removed from its original location.

____ C a birthplace or a grave.

____ D a cemetery.

____ E a reconstructed building, object,or structure.

____ F a commemorative property.

____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance circa 1770
1889-1893
1897-1903

Significant Dates circa 1770
1889-1893
1897-1903

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Anne Arundel County Land Records. Anne Arundel County Courthouse and Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

"Historic View of Annapolis from State House", circa 1876-1877, in possession of William McWilliams, Jr, owner of 41 State Circle.

Papenfuse, Edward. *In Pursuit of Profit, The Annapolis Merchants in the Era of the American Revolution, 1763-1805.* Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1975.

Papenfuse, Edward and Jane McWilliams. "Southern Urban Society after the Revolution: Annapolis, Maryland, 1782-1786." Final Report for NEH Grant #H69-0-178, Historic Annapolis Foundation, 1969.

Radoff, Morris L., *The State House at Annapolis*, Annapolis, MD: 1972.

Record Group 29 "Records of the Bureau of the Census." 1880, 1900, 1910 and 1920 Census; Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

Riley, Elihu S., *The Ancient City: A History of Annapolis, 1649-1887*, Reprinted Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Company, Inc., 1995

Smith, Richard W., Research Prepared on Cornhill Street. Not published: December 20, 1995.

Warren, Marion E. and Mame Warren, *The Train's Done Been and Gone*, Annapolis, MD: M.E. Warren, 1976.

Maps and Drawings

Bird's Eye View of the City of Annapolis, Charles Magnus, 1864, Reproduced, 1967. Bird's Eye View of the City of Annapolis, Edward Sachse, ca. 1858. (Maryland Hall of Records, MdHR G 1213-349)

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1885, 1891, 1896, 1897, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, 1930, 1954.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The John McCusker House at 57 Cornhill Street is located on Parcel 856 as indicated on Tax Map 4-6.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building at 57 Cornhill Street has been historically associated with Parcel 856 since the construction of the main dwelling in circa 1770.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title L. Trieschmann & K. Williams, Architectural Historians
organization Traceries date January 20, 1996
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

12. Property Owner

name Frank G. Parent
street & number 57 Cornhill Street telephone
city or town Annapolis state MD zip code 21401

The large freestanding dwelling at 57 Cornhill Street originally consisted of two separate 18th-century buildings--a dwelling and detached kitchen--that were joined together in several phases throughout the 19th century to eventually form the single cohesive structure that stands on the site today. In ca. 1770, a two-story, hall-parlor house of frame construction, measuring 20 feet by 18 feet, was erected to face the newly laid Cornhill Street. However, the original entry to the house faced south and not towards Cornhill Street, suggesting that the house may have existed just prior to the placement of the street. The present central entry was moved to the north elevation as part of the late 19th-century remodelling, well after the street was established.

A frame kitchen, which measured 20 feet by 16 feet, was located to the south of the main house and was probably erected at the same time as the house.[1] Historically, the frame kitchen building has been documented to have brick end walls with a brick chimney and was covered with a steep gable roof with shed dormers.[2]

In the first quarter of the 19th century, the main dwelling and kitchen building were connected by a rear hyphen, and by 1876, a second shed-roof hyphen adjoined this one. These two hyphens can be seen in various forms in different historic photographs. In an 1876-1877 view from the State House Dome, it appears that the east hyphen is covered by a gable roof with an end chimney between it and the kitchen dependency. The west hyphen has a shed roof. In an 1889-1892 photograph from the same vantage point, the two rear hyphens appear as a single shed roof addition to the rear of the main block of the house. The evolution of the hyphens as seen in the photographs is consistent with details on the interior. The east hyphen with the gable roof holds a vernacular Federal-era stair indicating it was erected in the first quarter of the 19th century. Between 1897 and 1903, according to the Sanborn maps and verified by interior detailing, the roof of the main house was reconstructed to incorporate the two hyphens, and the hall-parlor plan was modified to have a central-passage plan. The interior was renovated with Victorian-era detailing, including bulls' eye

[1] According to tradition, the kitchen was erected in the late 17th century and served as the Governor's House or the State House. As the 1770 lease of the land makes no mention of a building on the site, it is more likely that the kitchen was erected at the same time as the house, immediately after the land was leased, and was directly associated with it.

[2] The measurements are from the Federal Direct Tax, 1798. The description of the building's appearance is based upon historic maps and photographs.

cornerblocks on the window and door openings and ornate marbleized mantels. At the same time, the 1-1/2-story kitchen dependency was completely renovated and raised to two stories. The second story was connected to the upper story of the main house and covered with a sloped roof.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

Today, the house appears as an imposing two-story, five-bay frame structure clad with a combination of beaded board wood siding and German siding. Measuring 50 feet x 30 feet, the main block of the house is set upon a low rubble stone foundation and is covered with a gable roof. Two brick exterior end chimneys, laid in three-course American bond, are detached from the side walls of the building at the base of the shaft to the roofline--a construction technique that was not uncommon in the 18th century, but one that is rare in Annapolis. A two-story ell that extends off the rear of the dwelling appears on the exterior to date exclusively from the 1897-1903 period of alteration. However, the ell actually incorporates the kitchen dependency in its first floor. A single-story, one-room frame addition between the ell and the main block of the dwelling was added to the rear of the building between 1913 and 1921, according to the Sanborn maps.

The facade (north elevation), facing Cornhill Street, is divided into five bays on the first story and four bays on the second story. The frame walls are clad with overlapping beaded board clapboard siding. The gable roof is sheathed with asbestos shingles and features a plain box cornice above bed molding. The first story consists of a narrow central entry squeezed between flanking windows. The central entry is raised slightly above ground level and reached by contemporary wood steps with a wood balustrade. A six-panelled, wood replacement door is set beneath a four-light transom. Based upon the irregular arrangement of bays and the unequal spacing surrounding the central entry, as well as the interior floor board arrangement, it appears that this central opening was added to the house during the 1897-1903 period of alteration. The windows on either side, as well as those on the second story, are located in the original openings, but hold 2/2 sash and square-edged wood surrounds that also date from this later period of alteration.

The east elevation is separated from the gambrel-roofed 53 Cornhill Street by a narrow passage, approximately five-feet wide. This

side elevation provides a combination of architectural features of the 18th century house and its later hyphens. The front section of this wall, to the north of the chimney, is clad with the overlapping and beaded clapboards, while the rear section is clad with German siding that date from the 1897-1903 renovations. The elevation is most notable, however, for its double-shouldered brick chimney. The brick chimney is laid in three-course American bond, and has been significantly repointed and relaid. The formerly detached stack was relaid in stretcher bond and joined to the wall of the building. The double-shoulders have brick weathering that have been repointed and covered with a mortar finish. A single, square 6/6 window is located in the gable end at the attic level.

The west elevation similarly offers a combination of details from both periods of construction and features a brick chimney, whose stack survives in its detached state. Like the east elevation, the west elevation is clad with both beaded board and German siding. Here, however, the overlapping beaded boards are fully intact on either side of the chimney, extending up to the cornice. The chimney has a single-shoulder with brick weathering. The stack above the shoulders remains detached from the exterior wall. The rear section of the wall is clad with German siding that directly abuts the beaded board siding of the front section. The first story of the rear section of this elevation has a single entry and one 6/6 window from the 1897-1903 period of construction. the second story has one 6/6 window, set lower than the second story window opening of the original block of the building. The first story is covered by a shed roof porch supported by three square posts.

The south (rear) elevation consists of the rear wall of the rear hyphens, renovated between 1897-1903, and the two-story rear ell, also from this period. The elevation also incorporates the kitchen dependency on the first floor and the one-room 20th century appendage at the west corner. The rear wall of the main block of the house, the walls of the rear ell and the one-room addition are all clad with German siding. The west side wall of the 20th century one-room addition is clad with a beaded board siding, replicating the 18th-century siding on the house. The rear ell and one-room addition are covered with sloped roofs and have 6/6 windows.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

Although the house has been renovated in recent years, the four periods of construction are clearly distinguishable on the interior with many of the materials and details from these various periods intact. The house is divided into five principal rooms on the first floor with a central-passage plan dividing the two front rooms and the kitchen dependency located in the ell at the rear of the house.

The front section of the house--the central passage and its flanking rooms--form the original hall-parlor dwelling on the site. As originally configured, this dwelling was two rooms wide with a corner winder stair located in the southwest corner of the west room. Evidence of a centrally placed interior dividing wall can be clearly seen in the floorboards of the present central passageway. Replacement floorboards located in the location of the winder stair are clearly visible. The exact location of the original door to this hall-parlor house has not been determined; however, because no indication of a door can be found on the present facade or side walls, and the original south elevation was removed when the hyphens were constructed, it is likely that the original entry door was located on this south wall.

The wall that divided the hall and parlor rooms was removed in the late 19th century when the house was enlarged and converted into a central-passage plan. At that time, the two front rooms were reduced in size by partition walls and a central hall was created between them. Late 19th century details, including the 2/2 sash, the bull's eye cornerblocks, and the Victorian period, marbleized mantels were all added during this phase of alteration.

The house is presently entered directly from Cornhill Street by the centrally placed entry leading into the hall. The pine floorboards of the parlor rooms extend the width of the house and abut on center in the hall. The juncture of the floorboards would originally have been obscured under the wall that divided the two rooms. Today, however, the seam runs up the center of the central hall, providing clear evidence of the evolution of the house from a hall-parlor plan to a central-passage plan.

The east and west parlors are similarly configured with fireplaces centered on the side exterior walls. Both rooms retain their original five to eight-inch wide floorboards running the width of the rooms. The west room also retains its original seven-inch high

baseboard with a square-edged cap, while that in the east room is a recent replacement (1995), copying the original. Replacement floorboards in the southwest corner of the west room indicate the location of the original winder stair of the hall-parlor house. The slate mantel in the west room is Victorian-style, painted to look like marble. The mantel is ornamented with a semi-circular arched opening surrounded by molded trim, shield-shaped keystone, round-edged stone shelf, and slate hearth. Similarly, the Victorian-style slate mantel in the east room is painted to look like marble and had a large semi-circular arched opening, ceramic tile hearth, and an ornate keystone supporting the round-edged shelf.

The two rear rooms in the main block of the house were built as separate hyphens at different times to connect the hall-parlor house to the detached kitchen. The two hyphens were renovated in the 1897-1903 period. The east room, serving as a stair hyphen, was built in the first quarter of the 19th century and, as seen in a circa 1876-1877 historic photograph, was covered with a gable roof.[3] The hyphen contains a quarter-flight stair leading to the second floor as well as a ladder stair to the basement. The vernacular quarter-flight stair features Federal-period square newel and landing posts, square balusters, a beaded stringer, and stringer brackets. The original six- to eight-inch-wide floorboards of the stair hyphen are edged by original seven-inch high baseboards. The beaded board wooden door that leads to the basement has the original metal latch hardware.

The west rear room and hyphen, shown on the 1876-1877 photograph with a shed roof, presently serves as the dining room. The room was altered first in 1897-1903 and again in 1989. In the most recent alterations, all of the casings were replaced. A built-in corner cabinet and a panelled wood door with a metal lockbox and ceramic knob survive from the 1897-1903 period of alteration. Damaged floorboards were replaced with original boards from the second floor.

The first floor of the two-story ell contains the greatly altered, but original kitchen dependency. This kitchen space, originally freestanding, has been entirely reconstructed, leaving only the brick chimney breast and winder stair on the east wall intact from the original period of construction. The chimney breast, laid in

[3] "View from the State House Dome," circa 1876-1877, (Maryland Historical Trust).

two-course American bond, has a large segmental-arched brick fireplace opening for cooking and a smaller round-arched baking oven. A smaller, segmental-arched brick opening with a jack-arched lintel is located below the bake oven. This opening has been filled with bricks. Two narrow board-and-batten entry doors with original latch hardware are located on either side of the chimney breast. The entry to the west of the chimney opens onto a small closet, while the entry to the east leads to an enclosed winder stair that provides access to the upper loft. The interior of the closet does not retain any original features. The enclosed winder stair is finished with an enclosed beaded board balustrade (replacement) and plaster walls that do not appear to have been disturbed by the intrusion of a rail.

The second floor of the house includes the rooms above the main block of the house and the hyphens, as well as the loft above the kitchen. The roof of the kitchen was raised during the 1897-1903 alterations and the space divided into three rooms--a principal room, a hall with an enclosed stair, and bath. Only the stair survives from the 18th century period of construction.

Three steps lead down from the kitchen loft to the stair hyphen and up another level to the second floor of the original hall-parlor house. Although reconfigured to accommodate closets, bathrooms, and a rear hall, the rooms of the original house retain their 18th-century detailing, including floorboards, baseboards, and casings. The east room has its original five-foot high wood mantel with beaded molding and a round-edged projecting shelf. The wider mantle of the west room has pilaster surrounds and plain cornerblocks trimming the fireplace opening, a plain frieze, and extremely narrow mantle shelf. Replacement floorboards against the south wall of the west room indicate the location of the original stair of the hall-parlor house.

A full basement is located only under the original hall-parlor section of the house, and is accessible beneath the quarter-flight stair in the hyphen. A small inaccessible crawlspace is located under the two hyphens. Although the basement space has been altered by the poured concrete slab floor, it retains the original rubble stone foundation walls and hand-hewn floor joists. Six hewned joists, measuring three to four inches in width and sistered by contemporary members, are located on either side of an eight-inch wide central beam. A stone and brick chimney breast with a relieving segmental-arch is located on the east side wall. A massive stone sill is located under the coal chute on the north

elevation wall. The size of this sill may indicate that the opening filled by the coal chute may originally have been the exterior bulkhead entrance to the basement. The joists and underside of the floorboards have a whitewashed appearance, indicating that they may have, at one time, been painted and that this basement was a usable space.

The attic reveals the gable roof structure of the main block of the house. The rafters abut a central ridgeboard, and along with the collar beams and roof sheathing boards, have circular saw marks. Based these roof features, it is clear that the roof was reconstructed during the 1897-1903 renovations that incorporated the rear hyphens into the main block of the house. At the same time, the kitchen dependency was raised to a full two stories, its walls were relaid and it was covered with a new sloped roof that connected it to the main house.

The building located at 57 Cornhill Street was originally constructed ca. 1770 as two separate buildings--a dwelling and a freestanding kitchen dependency--later merged into a single building. The building is located on property leased by Reuben Merriweather from Charles Wallace and was most likely constructed immediately following this 1770 lease and the laying of Cornhill Street.

In 1888, John McCusker purchased the property, and significantly altered the buildings, merging them together and renovating the interior. As a result of the numerous alterations, the building includes architectural details from various periods of construction, including aspects of the kitchen, a Federal-era stair, and Victorian-style mantels and casings. For 107 years, three generations of the John McCusker family owned and occupied the dwelling at 57 Cornhill Street.

SITE HISTORY

The land presently designated as 57 Cornhill Street was originally a portion of the land surveyed and set aside for Governor Francis Nicholson in 1696. Nicholson, influential in the town planning of Annapolis, directed that the land located to the south of the State House, encompassed by State Circle, Main, Francis, and East streets be specifically set aside for use as a garden, vineyard, and site of a summer house.[4] In 1699, Francis Nicholson left Maryland to serve as the Governor of Virginia, but retained part of his Annapolis properties until his death in 1728.

In 1704 following the destruction of all Annapolis land records, the portion of Nicholson's land that extended from the State House to the Market Space was claimed by Thomas Bordley. The Bordley family retained ownership of the entire tract of land until 1770, when it was sold to Charles Wallace (1717-1812).

Charles Wallace, by then a prominent member of the merchant community, began his career in the 1740s as a staymaker[5] and, in 1771, joined forces with Joshua Johnson and John Davidson, creating

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[4] "Act for Keeping Good Rules and Order." *Archives of Maryland*, XXXVIII, 1696. It is not certain how the land was actually used.

[5] From St. Anne's Parish Register, 1: 79, as quoted in Edward C. Papenfuse, *In Pursuit of Profit*, (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1975), p. 234-5, footnote 35.

the mercantile firm of Wallace, Davidson, and Johnson. In addition to his mercantile business, Wallace involved himself in real estate and building ventures. In 1771, Wallace began the construction of the third State House and provided the supplies necessary in the building's construction. Unwilling to continue to work on the building for lack of what he considered to be adequate financial compensation, Wallace resigned as principal contractor in December 1779.[6] Wallace died in 1812, leaving personal property appraised at $23,774.20 and extensive real estate in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County.[7]

BUILDING HISTORY

Upon the completion of his subdivision of Fleet and Cornhill streets, Wallace began to sell and lease lots on his property. On July 12, 1770, Charles Wallace leased the property corresponding today with the frame house at 57 Cornhill Street to Reuben Merriweather for 99 years at six pounds sterling annually. The lease agreement indicated that Wallace was conveying a "piece of ground extending 66 feet on Cornhill Street." The lease agreement does not indicate that the property was improved prior to the conveyance.

Additionally, Merriweather obtained the leases for parcels of property fronting on Francis Street, known as the Free School Lot, and all of Lot 18, which fronted on State Circle between Francis and Cornhill streets. By 1773, Merriweather had subleased the land to Sarah Potts, who in turn subleased it to James Tootell and Robert Couden in 1780. Consolidating it with property leased directly from Charles Wallace, Tootell and Couden began to erect dwelling houses and stores on the land between 1780 and 1786. James and Ann Tootell converted the Kentish House at 16 Francis Street (1696-demolished circa 1864) from a tavern into a single-family dwelling, while Robert Couden erected a single dwelling on the northern-most portion of the land, possibly fronting on State Circle.

The Last Will and Testament of James Tootell, filed in 1789,

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[6] A letter written by Charles Wallace explaining his reasons for not finishing the state house is reprinted in Morris L. Radoff, *The State House at Annapolis* (Hall of Records Commission, Department of General Services: Annapolis, MD., 1972), p 87.

[7] Papenfuse, pp 234-235.

empowered his wife Ann "to convey by lease to Robert Couden all my right and interest to that lot or parcel of ground pailed in by him and lying near to my dwelling house and on which he has built a house, the said parcel of ground being part of the lots or leases he and I purchased jointly betwixt us of Mrs. Sarah Potts in the year 1780 and still undivided...."[8] James Williams, acting as the administrator for Tootell's Will advertised in May 1791 "...sundry lots on lease with the improvements thereon, the three lots whereon Dr. Shaaf, Mr. William Foxcroft, and Mrs. Ann Tootell live, with one other lot."[9] Robert Couden's share of the leased property, clearly stated by 1791, included what is now designated as 24 to 28 Francis Street as well as 44-42 State Circle and 57-61 Cornhill Street. Based on archival documentation, it has been determined that the present building at 57 Cornhill Street was constructed in circa 1770 by either Reuben Merriweather or Robert Couden, and was leased by Dr. John Thomas Shaaf in 1791.

According to the Federal Direct Tax of 1798, Shaaf was charged with "one frame dwelling house, 20' by 18,' two story, with a frame kitchen, 20' by 16,' single story." In 1800, Shaaf leased a portion of the property to Lucy Rummels, who transferred the lease two years later to her son, William Calder. Stephen Rummels agreed to purchase the property from the Wallace estate in 1819, at which time he was assessed with one .13 acre lot in Annapolis and two houses valued at $600.[10] Rummels failed to make actual payments, and, by 1826, the Chancery Courts ordered that Nicholas Brewer, the trustee for the estate of Wallace, sell the land.

In September 1827, James Iglehart obtained ownership of the southern portion of Lot 19, which included the two-story frame dwelling at 57 Cornhill Street, for $400. James Iglehart (1790-1874), a merchant, owned improved property on Market Space, Cornhill, and Prince George streets.[11] Sometime during the early part of the 19th century, a rear hyphen was added to the building, connecting the main dwelling with the kitchen dependency. The Cornhill property was sold by Iglehart in 1866 to James Hopkins for $1,700. Hopkins retained ownership until September 1888, when it

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[8] Will Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber TG 1 Folio 319.

[9] *The Maryland Gazette*, May 5, 1791.

[10] The 1819 Real Property Assessments.

[11] 1860 Real and Personal Property Assessments.

was sold to John Emmett McCusker for $1,600. During this same period, the second hyphen was constructed. By 1889-1892, the two rear hyphens were joined into a single shed-roof addition connecting the main house and the kitchen. Additionally, by 1903, McCusker renovated the dwelling again, constructing the present side gable roof which covered the stair hyphen and kitchen structure, and introduced interior detailing from the Victorian period, including detailed slate mantels and casings.

Born about 1848, John McCusker served as a drummer in the Civil War, following which he worked as a contractor and builder. In 1896, McCusker was assessed for one lot (50-1/2' by 60') on Cornhill Street valued at $757.50 and one frame house valued at $1000. The heirs of John McCusker, who died circa 1930, owned and occupied the dwelling for a total of 107 years. The only living heir to the property, David Grier Kearse of Los Angeles, California (the son of John McCusker's youngest daughter Esther) sold 57 Cornhill Street in 1995 its present owner Frank G. Parent.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. AA-453

John McCusker House
name of property
Annapolis, Maryland
county and state

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification, 1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function (s): Domestic: Single Dwelling
Domestic: Secondary Structure (Kitchen)

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. AA-453

John McCusker House
name of property
Annapolis, Maryland
county and state

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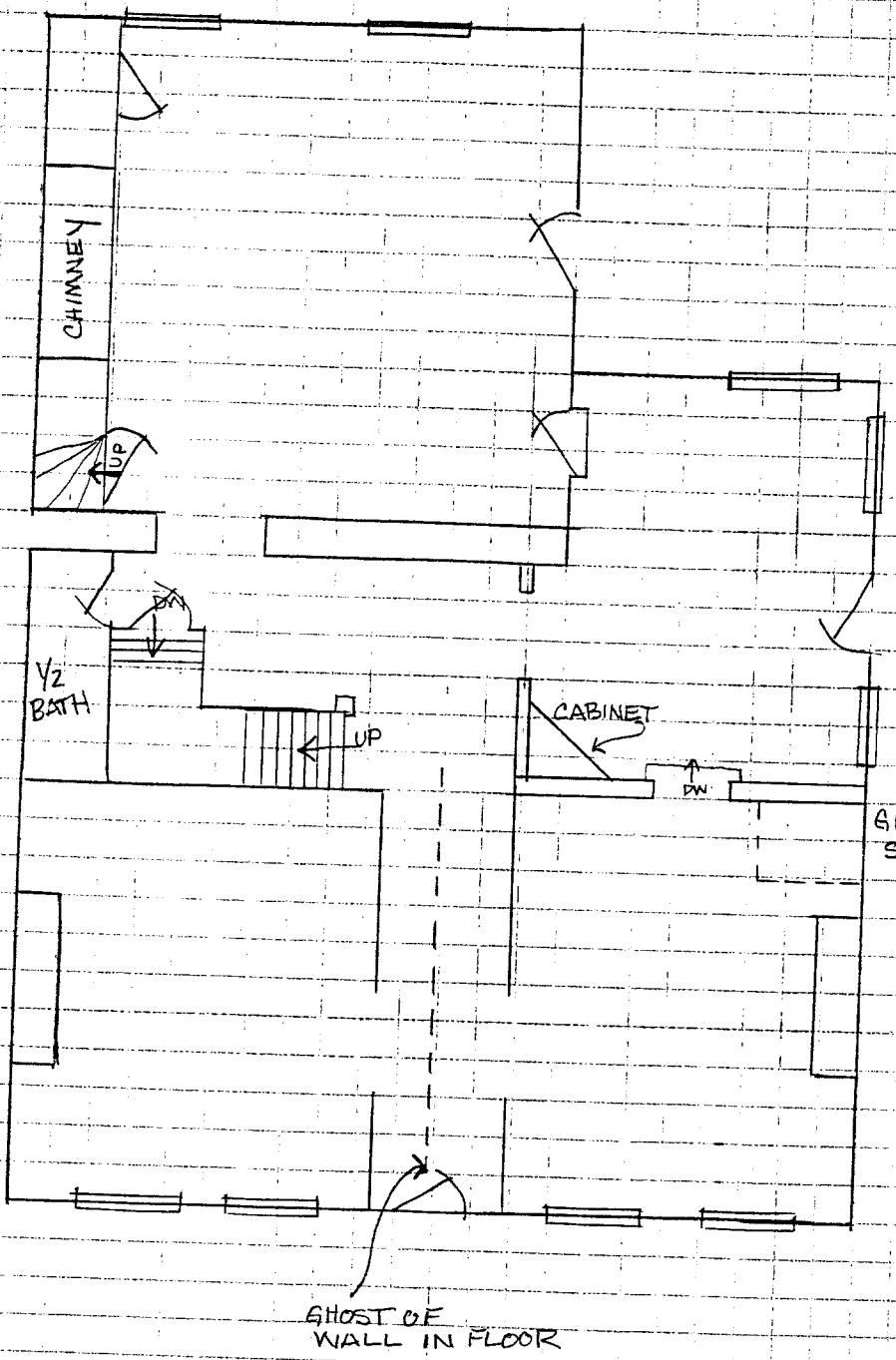
Chain of Title for 57 Cornhill Street:

1704:	Thomas Bordley claimed property of Francis Nicholson
March 1770:	Charles Wallace purchased property from State House to Market Space from J.B. Bordley Provincial Court Judgement, Liber DD 5 Folio 35
July 12, 1770:	Charles Wallace leased to Charles Merriweather Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber IB 2 Folio 201
July 6, 1773:	Reuben Merriweather leased to Sarah Potts Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber IB 4 Folio 93
May 12, 1780:	Sarah Potts leased to Robert Couden and James Tootell Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber NH 1 Folio 107
1789:	James Tootell devised 1/2 interest in lease to wife Ann Tootell and Robert Couden Will Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber TG 1 Folio 319
July 2, 1791:	Robert Couden, James Williams, James Dowson, and Ann Wilson Tootell leased to Dr. John Thomas Shaaf Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber NH 6 Folio 25
March 19, 1800:	Dr. John Thomas Shaaf leased to Lucy Rummels Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber NH 10 Folio 206

June 10, 1819:	Nicholas Brewer, trustee for the estate of Charles Wallace, to Stephen Rummels Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber WSG 16 Folio 63
1826:	Stephen Rummels failed to pay purchase price or ground rent. Court orders property sold. Nicholas Brewer versus Stephen Rummels Chancery Court Case 6342
September 29, 1827:	Nicholas Brewer, Jr., trustee, to James Iglehart Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber WSG 12 Folio 650
September 27, 1866:	James Iglehart to James Hopkins Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber SH 2 Folio 241
September 11, 1888:	James Hopkins to John R. McCusker Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber SH 33 Folio 422
July 10, 1930:	John E. McCusker devised to four sons and three daughters: Barnum C.; William M.; Emmett P.; Francis S.; Miltie L.; Margaret C.; and Esther C. Heirs agree to title estate to Miltie and Margaret McCusker Will Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber OBD 4 Folio 408 Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber FSR 76 Folio 440 Additionally deed of transfer: Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber 1781 Folio 387 Liber 1834 Folio 204 and 207
May 31, 1995:	David Grier Kearse by Basil E. Moore, Jr, attorney, to Frank G. Parent and Patricia L. Zeno Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Liber 7038 Folio 480

AA-453

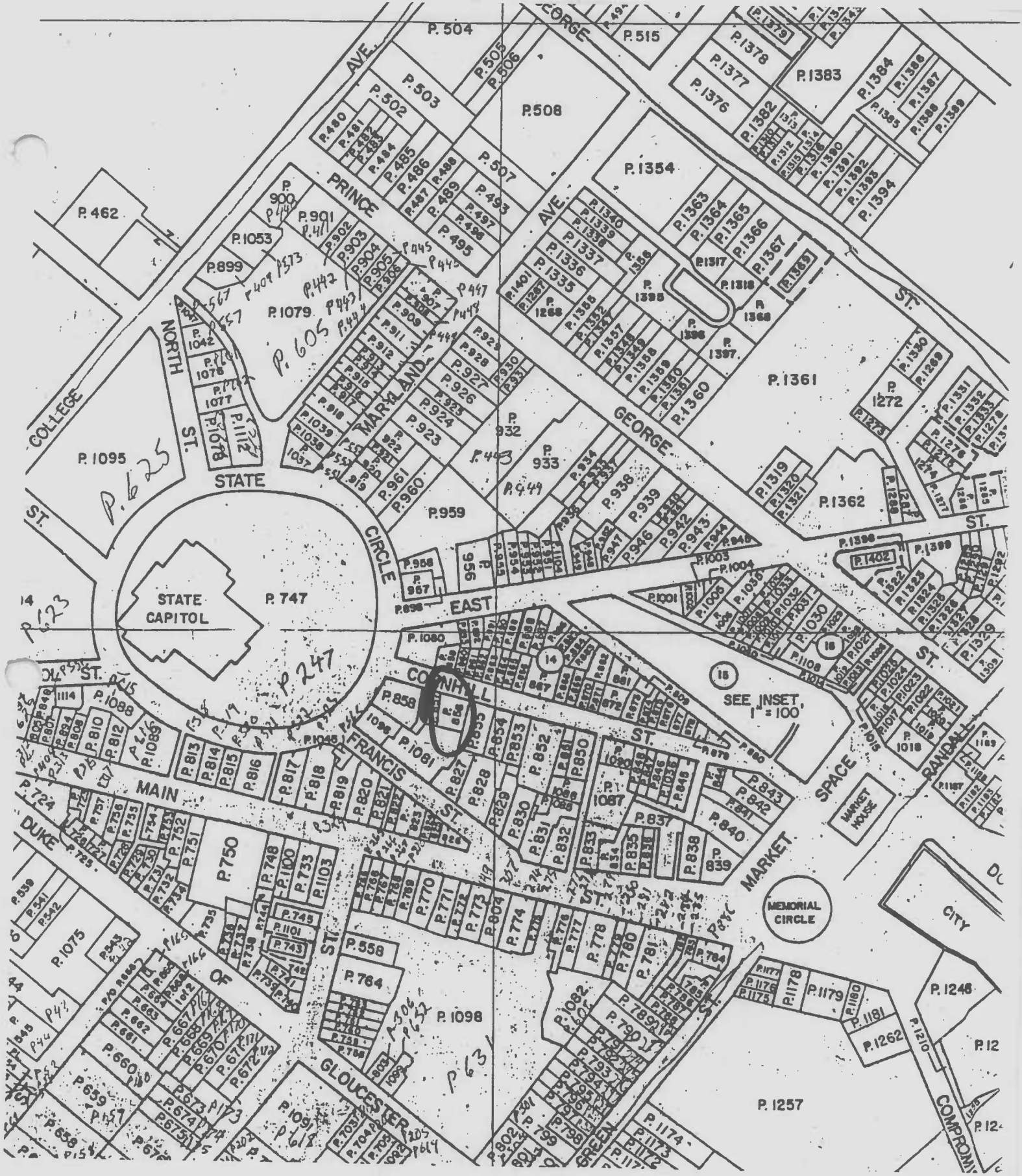


57 CORNHILL STREET

FIRST FLOOR

NORTH

NOT TO SCALE



MAP OF ANNAPOLIS, No.4-6
Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
1967; Revised 1991
Scale 1' = 200'

AA-453

AA-453
57 CORNHILL ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
DECEMBER 1995
MARYLAND SHPO
FACADE, LOOKING WEST
1 OF 10

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AA-453
57 CORNHILL ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
DECEMBER 1995
MARYLAND SHPO
WEST ELEVATION, LOOKING SE
2 OF 10

AA-453
57 CORNHILL ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
DECEMBER 1995
MARYLAND SHPO
CENTRAL HALL, FIRST FLOOR,
LOOKING WEST
3 OF 10

AA-453
57 CORNHILL ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
DECEMBER 1995
MARYLAND SHPO
FIRST FLOOR, WEST PARLOR, LOOKING NORTH
4 OF 10

NOEL

AA-453
57 CORNHILL ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
DECEMBER 1995
MARYLAND SHPO
FIRST FLOOR, EAST PARLOR, LOOKING EAST
5 OF 10

AA-453
57 CORNHILL ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
DECEMBER 1995
MARYLAND SHPO
FIRST FLOOR, STAIR HALL,
LOOKING SOUTH
6 OF 10

AA-453
57 CORNHILL ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
DECEMBER 1995
MARYLAND SHPO
KITCHEN ELL, EAST WALL, LOOKING SOUTH
7 OF 10

AA-453
57 CORNHILL ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
DECEMBER 1995
MARYLAND SHPO
SECOND FLOOR OF KITCHEN ELL,
LOOKING NORTH TO STAIR
8 OF 10

AA-453
57 CORNHILL ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
DECEMBER 1995
MARYLAND SHPO
WEST ROOM, SECOND FLOOR,
LOOKING NORTH
9 OF 10

AA-453
57 CORNHILL ST
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES
DECEMBER 1995
MARYLAND SHPO
EAST ROOM, SECOND FLOOR,
LOOKING SOUTH

10 OF 10

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
21 STATE CIRCLE
SHAW HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: AA 453

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Easting/Northing

U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:

COUNTY: Anne Arundel
TOWN: Annapolis
LOCATION: 57 Cornhill Street

COMMON NAME:

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Res Map 32 Par 363
OWNER: Miltie L. McCusker
ADDRESS: 57 Cornhill Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:
Yes (X) No ( ) Restricted ( )

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:
Local ( ) State (✓) National ( )

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:

PRESENT USE: SF Res
ORIGINAL USE: SF Res

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:
Excellent ( ) Good ( )
Fair (X) Poor: ( )

THEME:
STYLE: Georgian Colonial
DATE BUILT: c.1730 possible earlier

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:
Structural System
1. Foundation: Stone( )Brick(X)Concrete( )Concrete Block( )
2. Wall Structure
   A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam(X)Balloon( )
   B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick( )Stone( )Concrete( )Concrete Block( )
   C. Iron( ) D. Steel( ) E. Other:
3. Wall Covering: Clapboard(X)Board and Batten( )Wood Shingle( )Shiplap( )
   Novelty( )Stucco( )Sheet Metal( )Aluminum( )Asphalt Shingle(X)
   Brick Veneer( )Stone Veneer( )Asbestos Shingle( )
   Bonding Pattern: Other:
4. Roof Structure
   A. Truss: Wood(X)Iron( )Steel( )Concrete( )
   B. Other:
5. Roof Covering: Slate( )Wood Shingle( )Asphalt Shingle(X)Sheet Metal( )
   Built Up( )Rolled( )Tile( )Other:
6. Engineering Structure:
7. Other:

Appendages: Porches( )Towers( )Cupolas( )Dormers( )Chimneys(X)Sheds( )Ells(X)
Wings (X)Other: Stoop
Roof Style: Gable(X)Hip( )Shed( )Flat( )Mansard( )Gambrel( )Jerkinhead( )
Saw Tooth( )With Monitor( )With Bellcast( )With Parapet( )With False Front( )
Other:
Number of Stories: 2
Number of Bays: 5 x 2
Approximate Dimensions: 30 x 50
Entrance Location: Centered

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:
No Threat(X)Zoning( )Roads( )
Development( )Deterioration( )
Alteration ( )Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES:
Positive( )Negative( )
Mixed( ) Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Rare semi-detached end wall chimneys; boxed wood cornice, transom lit door, later stoop.

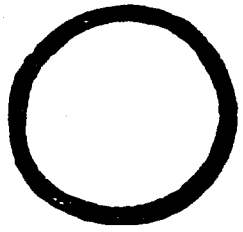
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

May be 17thC, more likely c1730 residence of great importance despite the asphalt shingles at end walls. Important as a type and critical to streetscape.

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
Open Lane( )Woodland( )Scattered Buildings( )
Moderately Built Up( )Densely Built Up(✓)
Residential( )Commercial( )
Agricultural( )Industrial( )
Roadside Strip Development( )
Other:

RECORDED BY: Russell Wright

ORGANIZATION: Historic Annapolis, Inc

DATE RECORDED: Aug. 1983

HA-453 IX

0204532004

Form 10-445
(5/62)

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY

1. STATE Annapolis, Maryland
COUNTY
TOWN VICINITY
STREET NO. 57 Cornhill Street

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE residence
PRESENT OWNER M.C. McCusker
PRESENT USE residence
WALL CONSTRUCTION clapboard
NO. OF STORIES two plus attic

2. NAME McCusker House

DATE OR PERIOD c. 1696- c. 1730
STYLE Colonial
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC no

Architecturally an interesting house, the McCusker House has rare semi-detached end chimneys. Though there is asbestos shingling on the side, the street front has early overlapping clapboards, small windows, and plain box cornice. Restoration would be very worthwhile, esp. as age may be ante 1700, start would be to replace small window panes (presently 2/2.)

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE good

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

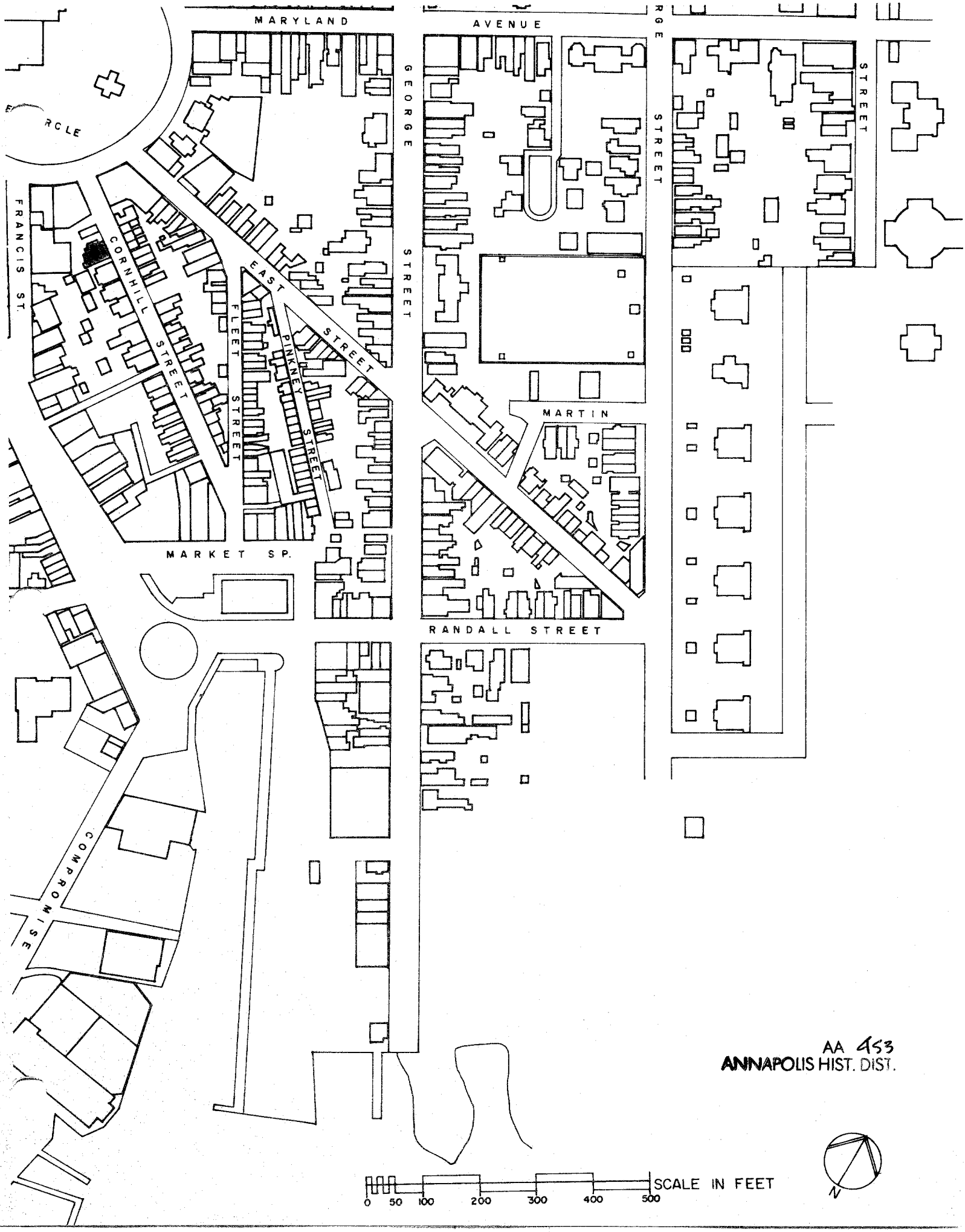
Ridout Survey
McCusker plaque

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

William D. Morgan
Columbia University
New York City

DATE OF RECORD August 14, 1967

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE


MARYLAND
AVENUE
RGE
STREET
RCLE
GEORGE
STREET
STREET
FRANCIS ST.
CORNHILL
STREET
FLEET
STREET
EAST
STREET
PINKNEY
STREET
MARTIN
MARKET SP.
RANDALL STREET
COMPROMISE
AA 453
ANNAPOLIS HIST. DIST.
SCALE IN FEET
0 50 100 200 300 400 500
N

57 Cornhill AA 453
Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
Russell Wright July, 1982
Maryland Historical Trust,
Annapolis, Maryland
NW elevation/ [illegible] facing SE

57 CORNHILL

AA-453

PHOTOGRAPH BY
WILLARD D. MORGAN
57 Combill St.
8/14/67

762

AA-453

PHOTOGRAPH BY
WILLIAM B. MEAD

57 Cornhill ST.
8/14/67