

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**John Shaw House (AA-689)**  
**21 State Circle**  
**Annapolis, Maryland**

The gambrel roof building at 21 State Circle was constructed in the years between 1720 and 1725 for butcher Cornelius Brooksby. The modest structure consisted of a two room plan set upon a raised basement. Beginning in 1784, established cabinetmaker John Shaw had purchased the property, enlarging the dwelling to include three rooms on each story. Shaw, a prominent citizen who held public office, was recognized not only for his superbly crafted furniture, but for his outfitting and maintenance of the nearby State House. The wood frame Georgian house is the oldest structure extant on State Circle, remaining in the Shaw family for 123 years. After serving 54 years as the home of the Elk's Annapolis Lodge, the building was purchased by the State of Maryland in 1961.

The John Shaw House, at 21 State Circle was originally constructed as a 1-1/2-story, three-bay, gambrel-roofed brick structure set upon a raised basement foundation. Over the course of the next 250 years, the building was altered in several major periods of construction. Today, the Shaw House stands as a seven-bay long, one-and-a-half-story gambrel-roofed building featuring a distinctive widow's walk and a full-width front porch.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. AA-689

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1. Name of Property

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historic name John Shaw House; Brooksby-Shaw House  
common/other name \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Location

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street & number 21 State Circle not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Annapolis vicinity \_\_\_\_\_ state Maryland code MD  
county Anne Arundel code 003 zip code 21401

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	_____	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes  Name of Listing Annapolis Historic District  
No \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Function or Use  
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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
SOCIAL Meeting Hall

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: Government Office

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7. Description  
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Georgian

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick; Stucco

roof Standing Seam Metal

walls Brick; Stucco

other \_\_\_\_\_

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

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance  
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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.
- 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 1720-1725  
1784-1907  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1720-1725  
1784  
1902  
1921

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
John Shaw  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Archives of Maryland, XXXVIII, "Act for Keeping Good Rules and Orders," 1696.

Elder, III, William Voss and Lu Bartlett. John Shaw: Cabinetmaker of Annapolis. Baltimore, MD: The Baltimore Museum of Art, exhibition catalogue 1983.

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Miller, Marcia M., and Orlando Ridout, V., editors. "Architecture in Annapolis: A Field Guide," Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1998, pp. 152-153.

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, Publication No. 17. Annapolis, MD: The Hall of Records Commission, Department of General Services, State of Maryland, 1972.

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

Ridout, Orlando V., Sketched drawing of Shaw House, noting alterations and ghosting.

Risjord, Norman K. Builders of Annapolis: Enterprise and Politics in a Colonial Capital. Baltimore, MD: Maryland Historical Society, 1997.

"The Shaw House, Fact Sheet," nd. Maryland Historical Trust, Vertical File: 21 State Circle.

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

Maps and Drawings

Magnus, Charles. Bird's Eye View of the City of Annapolis, 1864, Reproduced 1967.

Sachse, Edward. Bird's Eye View of the City of Annapolis, circa 1858. Maryland Hall of Records, MdHR G 1219-349.

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

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10. Geographical Data  
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Acreege of Property Less than one acre

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

The property designated as 21 State Circle is located on Parcel 1089 as shown on Grid 16, Map 4Z in the City of Annapolis.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

The building has been historically associated with this property since its construction in 1720-1725.

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11. Form Prepared By  
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name/title L. Trieschmann & K. Williams, Architectural Historians  
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 22, 1999  
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283  
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815  
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12. Property Owner  
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name State of Maryland  
street & number State Circle telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Annapolis state MD zip code 21401  
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John Shaw House  
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=====  
The John Shaw House at 21 State Circle was originally constructed between 1720 and 1725 as a 1-1/2-story, three-bay, gambrel-roofed brick structure set upon a raised basement foundation. As originally designed, the building had a modified hall/parlor plan. Over the course of the next 250 years, the building was altered in several major periods of construction. Today, the Shaw House stands as a seven-bay long, 1-1/2-story gambrel-roofed building featuring a distinctive, widow's walk and a full-width front porch. The various phases of construction, and a present-day architectural description, are presented below. The architectural description identifies the facade fronting State Circle as north. The accompanying photographs have been labeled to "true north," with the State Circle facade as the northeast elevation.

**Period 1 (1720-1725):**

During Period 1, the building at 21 State Circle was constructed by Cornelius Brooksby. According to archival documentation, construction on the building began in 1720 and was completed in 1725. As completed, the house stood as a 1-1/2-story, four-bay brick structure with walls laid in English bond.<sup>1</sup> It was set upon a raised foundation and covered with a gambrel roof with gable-end exterior brick chimneys. A front door with a tracery-light transom occupied the second bay from the east with two hipped dormers symmetrically placed to either side.

The interior of the Period I house had a hall/parlor plan with two principal areas divided by a masonry wall on center. The eastern half consisted of one large room into which one entered from the

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<sup>1</sup> According to a construction chronology for the Shaw House, prepared in 1986 by architect David H. Gleason, evidence of a white stucco finish was found on the east face of the brick wall between the stair hall and the Period II addition, indicating that the original house was stuccoed. The report further argues that evidence of such a finish is visible in the background of a 1788 drawing of the State House, with notes by Charles Wilson Peale. According to Orlando Ridout, V, however, the remains of a stucco finish may point not to exterior stucco, but to interior plaster which would have been added after the Period I east end wall was encased in the Period II addition. It should be further noted that based upon the carefully struck joint work in the upper gable end wall (still exposed in the attic), the exterior brickwork was originally intended to be exposed. Thus, while the shading in the Peale drawing is most easily explained as exposed brick contrasting with stucco, the physical evidence does not support this.

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exterior door. The western half included two smaller rooms, divided by a board partition.<sup>2</sup> The ground and second floors had two rooms each. The first and second-floor rooms offered a fireplace centered on the east end wall, while the western part of the dwelling, partitioned into two rooms, had a double fireplace.<sup>3</sup> An open stringer quarter-turn stair, ascending to the half-story, was located in the southeast corner of the first floor east room. A boxed winder under it led to the ground floor level.<sup>4</sup> At ground level, there was a large fireplace in the east room used for cooking, and no fireplace in the west room. The interior of the building throughout was appointed with wide plank, random width flooring, molded door and window casings, and beaded, exposed ceiling joists on the first and second floors.

**Period IIa (1784):**

In 1784, a 1-1/2-story, three-bay, addition was made to the eastern end of the building, almost doubling the size of the original structure, and converting it from a four-bay to a seven-bay building. The addition was constructed of brick with a gambrel roof to match the existing structure and provided an additional room on each of the three floors. On the exterior, the three-bay addition featured a door between two single windows, having the same dimensions and detailing as those of Period I, and a single dormer window, centrally placed above the Period II door. A brick end chimney laid in English bond terminated the new east end of the dwelling. A small front porch with a vaulted pediment sheltering the entry on the building's State Circle facade, with side steps leading to grade, was in place by Period II.

During this period, the interior of the dwelling was converted from a two-room plan to a three-room plan house, with the main entry still leading into the east room of the Period I house. As a

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<sup>2</sup> Floor plans with notations prepared by Orlando Ridout, V, prepared when the building was undergoing a renovation. With the interior walls, floors and ceilings exposed during the renovation, physical evidence showed that an interior partition separated the west room into two rooms, each with a fireplace.

<sup>3</sup> According to the drawings of Orlando Ridout, V, whitewash ghosting outlines the original double fireplace chimney on the present chimney breast.

<sup>4</sup> The notes taken during the renovation also record ghosting of a stair stringer in the southwest corner of the west room, indicating that an original stair existed in the west room.

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result of this extension, the original fireplace in the Period I first floor east room was removed and an arched cabinet installed in its place. An original window opening in the rear bay of the east gable end which allowed light into the corner stair was filled in and plastered over. In addition, the stair in the southwest room was removed, and the ceiling on the entire first floor was plastered. Interior appointments of the Period II addition matched those of Period I (i.e. wide-plank, random width flooring; molded door and window casings). Based upon its cove/astragal bed mold, it appears that the chair board was added during Period II.

**Phase IIb (pre-1798):**

Sometime after the 1784 addition to the east end of the Period I house, but prior to the 1798 Federal Direct Tax, a single-story rear ell was added to the dwelling. Constructed of brick, this ell was set upon a raised basement. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax describes the ell as a "back elbow brick single story, 18 x 12 feet." By 1885, according to the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, this rear ell was ultimately raised to two stories.

Also, according to the Federal Direct Tax, a brick smokehouse (measuring 8 x 8 feet) and frame shop (measuring 30 x 2 feet) stood on the property.

**Period III (1820-1835):**

During Period III (dates are conjectural based upon architectural detailing), the widow's walk with Chinese trellis work was built atop the gambrel roof, and served from the interior by a rare ladder stair with staggered steps. During this same period, the second set of porch steps to the Period II addition were moved from the front to the west side of the porch. Subsequently, after circa 1836, the Period II door on the State Circle facade was removed, and the masonry opening filled in. A surface coat of stucco scored to resemble ashlar stone was applied across the entire facade, including the raised basement level.

**Period IVa (1901-1920):**

About 1902, a shed-roof porch was constructed to either side of the Period I vaulted pediment porch, and extended the full width of the facade. The porch was set upon wood piers and featured tapered Tuscan wood columns. The Period II door (enclosed during Period

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III) was reinstalled as a blind door. The raised foundation windows were enlarged from arched cellar windows to full 6/6 double-hung sash.

**Period IVb (1920s):**

Between 1913 and 1921, a three-story addition of tile was built across the rear of the dwelling, abutting the Period II ell, and providing major assembly space for the Elks Club on the second floor. The Period II ell appears to have been raised a story. During this period, the rear of the gambrel roof was encased in the new three-story addition. It was also probably during this period that the central brick chimney (the original east end chimney of Period I building) was cut off at the attic level.

On the interior, the three-story addition was accessed through doors in all three rooms of the first floor and half-story, and at the ground level.

**Period IVc (circa 1930):**

By 1930, a rear sun porch was added to the building. On the interior, marble floors and marble mantel pieces were added. The marble mantels are thought to have come from the 1860s Government House, which was remodeled in 1933 to its present Georgian Revival style.

**Period V (after 1954):**

After 1954, the rear sun porch was filled in or replaced by a one-story, five-bay wing, designed in a Colonial Revival style. The addition fronts directly on Main Street, offering a symmetrical arrangement of openings with pedimented surrounds.

**Current-Day Architectural Description (June 1999):**

Exterior

The John Shaw House at 21 State Circle is a seven-bay, 1-1/2-story brick structure set upon a raised basement foundation and covered with a gambrel roof, featuring two gable-end brick chimneys. The brick walls are clad with a scored stucco finish on the facade, and the roof is sheathed with both slate shingles (on lower slope of gambrel) and standing seam metal (on top slope of gambrel). A

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shed-roof front porch, raised upon wood piers extends the full width of the facade, while a widow's walk and railing sit atop the gambrel. The Period I vaulted pediment porch is still intact with the shed porch extending to either side of it.

The north elevation facing State Circle is divided into seven bays with an entry located in the fifth bay from the east and a blind entry located in the second bay from the east. Three hipped dormers are located above the second, fourth and fifth bays. To either side of the entry and the blind entry are single 6/6 replacement windows recessed into the masonry walls. The trim, featuring narrow wood sills and large astragal casings, is similar on all the windows, and is probably a product of the Period II phase of construction. A seam, located at the juncture of the Period I and II buildings, is clearly visible between the two center windows of this elevation.

The Period I entry is reached by a set of stairs extending off the west end of the porch. The door is a six-paneled replacement, but the beaded trim and recessed transom with wood tracery is historic. Still intact and extending in front of the Period I door is the vault of the Period II porch. This vault, with a beaded box beam with lambs tongue stops, is supported by large scrolled, wooden brackets. The ceiling of the vault is constructed of narrow replacement slats. The blind door located in the second bay from the east (Period II addition) is a six-paneled door, dating to Period IV.

Under the raised porch, the north elevation of the Period II raised basement is visible. The brick foundation walls have an unpainted scored stucco finish articulated with two 6/6 windows. These windows, which feature wood sills, and large astragal interior trimwork similar to that on the first story, were probably put in place during Period IVa, at the time the shed-roof porch was added.

The east elevation corresponds to the east end wall of the Period II structure, and the Period IVb addition. The Period II surface is heavily painted and features an English bond brick chimney on center. Single replacement windows (9/6 on first story and 6/6 on second story) flank the chimney. The east wall of the Period IVb addition is clad with a pebbledash stucco and articulated by several now-boarded up windows and two fire doors. A metal fire escape projects from this elevation.

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The west elevation is the west end wall of the Period I building. It is separated from the building next to it by a narrow, two-foot, dead-end passage, and is thus difficult to see. The wall is stuccoed and has two 6/6 replacement windows on the first story, to either side of the central chimney (inside end). A Period I beaded raking cornice survives intact on the gambrel roof.

The south side of the building, facing Main Street, presents two distinct elevations composed of the south wall of the Period IVb rear addition, the Period V wing, and the two-bay Period II ell which was later raised. The Period V addition is a one-story brick wing, designed in a Colonial Revival style and built in place of the circa 1930 sun porch. It fronts directly onto the sidewalk, is five bays wide and has a flat roof with a bold, projecting cornice. It features a central entry with an engaged pediment surround, flanking round-arched windows, and in the two end bays, two smaller entrances similarly with engaged pedimented surrounds. Set back from and behind this wing, and not easily visible from Main Street, is the three-story Period IVb addition.

The south elevation of this Period IVb addition is five bays wide and abuts the altered Period IIb ell. The Period IVb wing has five 9/9 windows symmetrically aligned and now all boarded up. The Period IIb ell next to it has 4/4 windows.

### Interior

Through its various phases of construction, the interior of the John Shaw House has been significantly altered. However, aspects of all phases of construction are discernible and provide a good illustration of a complex building evolution. Only the Period I building and parts of the Period II were examined as part of this survey. Together, the Period I and II house offers a three-room interior arrangement of space, whereby the original Period I east end room now acts as the center passage. To the west is a Period I parlor, and to the east, a Period II parlor.

From State Circle, the building is entered through the Period I entry and into the central passage. This room features a quarter-turn open stringer stair in the southeast corner and doors on all four walls. The floor is laid with Period IVb marble and features marble baseboards. The walls have beaded wainscoting, also a product of this period. The main entry door and the door leading into the Period IV rear wing were both exterior, Period I doors

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with historic trim. They both feature transom lights, beaded casings with backbands and large, wooden pegs.

The east end wall of the room originally featured a fireplace on center of the wall, but is now equipped with an arched cabinet, cut into the chimney breast. The corner stair, part of which may be Period I, but which was reconfigured during Period II, and has even later fabric, cuts across a window opening in the south (rear) wall. The stair has wainscoting from the first to the second floor, and features a narrow, square newel and square balusters (three per tread). A more robust, rounded newel around which the stair turns, appears to survive from the original stair.

The west, Period I parlor, has a carpeted floor, a dropped ceiling, replacement doors, and a Period V marble mantel from the Government House. An original exterior window against the south wall and a door (added prior to the addition of the rear ell by 1798) share similar trim featuring interior beading, a backband, and mitred and pegged joints.

The east, Period II room currently serves as offices for the Lieutenant Governor and was not accessible for survey.

The second floor of the Period I house is divided into two rooms and a corridor. The corridor extends the length of the Period I house and runs against the south (rear) wall of the building, while the two rooms occupy the front of the house. The carpeted corridor is separated from the rooms by a wood partition wall, and opens into them through Period I doors. These doors are pegged and have beaded casings. A Period II door, also with pegged and beaded casing, is located at the east end of the corridor and leads into the Period II addition (not surveyed). The Period III ladder stair, which leads through the roof to the widow's walk atop, is snugly fit behind a door, cut into the partition wall. A closet, located behind the ladder, reveals the original Period I wide-plank flooring and Period II beaded board partition walls.

The east room is carpeted and features, most prominently, a wide, beaded board partition that was built to enclose the attic ladder stair and separate it from the room. This partition wall is currently exposed, and may have been so originally. However, split lath ghosting on the partitions, indicates that the wall was at one time plastered. The west end wall of this room also features wide, beaded boards, while the front wall and east end wall are

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plastered. The floor is carpeted and the ceiling plastered. There is no visible evidence of a fireplace on the east end wall.

The west room features a fireplace on center of the west end wall, decorated with a Period IV marble mantel. The mantel is articulated with fluted columns and rosette corner blocks. A Period I chimney closet is located on the north end of the chimney breast, at a height above mantel level. This closet has a raised panel door and a beaded shelf. A fixed, four-light window is located next to the chimney, in the front bay of the house.

The attic and roof are reached by the ladder stair, noteworthy for its unique staggered design. The attic of the house reveals the roof structure of both Period I and Period II phases of construction. The Period I roof extends from the west gable end to the Period I east gable end wall--still partially intact. The Period II roof extended from the Period I east end to the present-day east end. The Period I roof retains most of its original rafters (hewn, pegged and with Roman numerals), but most are charred from a fire and have new rafters sistered to them, or have been partially replaced. The gable end wall is laid in English bond with finely struck joints on the original exterior side, visible from inside the Period II roof. The original east end chimney has been dismantled at the attic floor level, revealing two large flues. A small, square window opening with a wood sill and a wood lintel is located in the front bay of this wall.

The Period II roof is an extension of the original with hewn rafters pegged at the ridge and having Roman numerals. The other attic level materials, including floor boards, ceiling boards and roof sheathing boards are all replacements.

The roof of the building features the Period III captain's walk, though most of the materials have been replaced since its original construction. The floor of the captain's walk has three-inch-wide boards with wire nails, and the Chinese railing does not appear to retain any original fabric.

The ground level of the Period I house is reached by the corner stairs in the center room. It is divided into two rooms, east and west, and a rear corridor. The corridor, which runs the length of the Period I building against the rear wall, has a Period IV marble flooring with 12" square tiles in alternating black and white.

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The east room of the ground floor has a large brick fireplace opening located on center of the east end wall, currently obscured by files. The chimney breast and walls are plastered and feature chair boards. The size of the fireplace and the finished nature of the room suggest its use as a kitchen. The west room had no fireplace opening, but a large arched, brick relieving arch, built into the chimney breast.

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The gambrel roof building at 21 State Circle was constructed in the years between 1720 and 1725 for butcher Cornelius Brooksby. The modest structure consisted of a modified hall/parlor plan set upon a raised basement. Beginning in 1784, established cabinetmaker John Shaw had purchased the property, enlarging the dwelling to include three rooms on each story. Shaw, a prominent citizen who held public office, was recognized not only for his superbly crafted furniture, but for his outfitting and maintenance of the nearby State House. The wood frame Georgian house is the oldest structure extant on State Circle, remaining in the Shaw family for 123 years. After serving 54 years as the home of the Elk's Annapolis Lodge, the building was purchased by the State of Maryland in 1961.

**Building History**

The property on which 21 State Circle was erected was resurveyed in 1718 by James Stoddert for Margaret Mercier, widow of Francis Mercier. Designated as Lot 73, the property fronted Church Street (Main Street) and extended northward to Francis Street and State Circle. In 1720, Mercier, who had married the city's first goldsmith John Steele, divided the vast lot in half.<sup>5</sup> The southern portion was conveyed for \$100 to Cornelius Brooksby. A butcher by trade, Brooksby immediately began the construction of a single-family dwelling on the unimproved property. The modest one-and-a-half-story brick house in which Brooksby lived with his family consisted of two rooms on each story. The Georgian dwelling, covered by a gambrel roof, was set upon a raised foundation visible on the main facade at State Circle.

The building was not completed until 1725, two years after the death of Brooksby in 1723. Title was devised by Brooksby to his children, Cornelius, II and Mary Brooksby in July 1723. However, the estate was not settled until 1725, the year Brooksby's widow married Thomas Gough. The property, which included a brick meat house and dairy, continued to be held by Cornelius Brooksby, II until 1745. It was then transferred to Sewell Long, who had

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<sup>5</sup> Edward Papenfuse 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, Parcel 10, Lot 73, Section IV.

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married Mary Brooksby, granddaughter to Cornelius Brooksby, I. A sailor and shipwright, Long is often attributed with having the captain's walk and staggered step to the attic constructed. The captain's walk and stair, according to local tradition, were erected for Long as a statement to his trade as a sailor, and provided a magnificent view of Annapolis harbor. However, physical and documentary evidence have proven the captain's walk and steps were not built during Long's ownership between 1745 and 1751, but rather 1820 and 1835 by the heirs of John Shaw. The walk does not appear in two 18th century views of the house: Charles Peale's 1788 view of the State House and the 1789 "Front View of the State House etc. at Annapolis the Capital of Maryland," as seen in the Columbian Magazine.

Sewell Long was from Somerset County, Maryland, apprenticed to Catlin's shipyard at White Haven on the Wicomico River. After his apprenticeship, Long served as a sailor on numerous vessels that traded between Maryland and New England. In 1774, the State Circle property was devised to Long's son, David Long. In 1784, Long sold it to John Shaw for 510 pounds.<sup>6</sup>

John Shaw was born in Glasgow on April 25, 1745, immigrating to Annapolis by 1763. The son of a cabinetmaker, Shaw is believed to have been apprenticed in the craft he would one day be widely known for. The first accounts of Shaw working in Annapolis appear in the 1768 ledgers of James Brice, who was erecting an imposing house on East Street. The documents record that Shaw was hired as a journeyman, a craftsman that worked for a daily wage. The accounts of silversmith Thomas Sparrow provide the greatest documentary evidence of Shaw commencing to produce furniture in Annapolis; in 1770, Sparrow engraved labels for the cabinetmaker to apply to his creations. This is further supported by advertisements in the Maryland Gazette for the production of cabinets and chairs by Shaw. Between 1772 and 1776, Shaw maintained a partnership with Archibald Chisholm, an established cabinetmaker himself. The team presented an array of furniture influenced by Thomas Chippendale, and later by George Hepplewhite, combined with a flare of their own to become the "Annapolis style". In 1775, the cabinetmakers were

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<sup>6</sup> Papenfuse and McWilliams, Parcel 10, Lot 73, Section IV.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. AA-689

Section 8 Page 3

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

=====

commissioned to provide furnishings for the new State House.<sup>7</sup>

During his partnership with Chisholm, Shaw continued to work from the shop on Church Street near the city docks. Chisholm relocated to a building further up Church Street that had formerly been occupied by artist Charles Peale. A fire destroyed Shaw's shop in 1783, prompting the temporary alliance of the former partners until the fall of 1784.<sup>8</sup>

On July 20, 1777, John Shaw married Elizabeth Wellstead Pratt, a union that produced five sons and two daughters. Following the death of Pratt in 1793, Shaw married Margaret Steuart in 1798, who died in 1806. Shaw's expertise as cabinetmaker allowed him to expand his trade to include the traditional sideline of undertaking and retailer of sundry goods and foodstuffs. He served the community by holding numerous public offices, including state armourer (1777-1819), assessor, official fire engine keeper, City Councilman (1801-1812), city commissioner in 1803, and was elected to the legislator in 1806. In 1783, with the relocation of the Continental Congress to Annapolis, Shaw was charged with producing two flags to fly over the State House.<sup>9</sup>

As early as 1791, Shaw worked as chief mechanic, maintenance supervisor and carpenter for the State House. A position he maintained until the 1810s, Shaw was responsible for completing construction of the State House, which included interior repairs, construction of a circular balustrade behind the seats of the Senate Chamber, as well as repairing desks and constructing benches and chairs. Additionally, the cabinetmaker was responsible for repairing the Chancery Office, making new feet for the chairs, providing hinges, banisters, glass, scantling and planks, as well as new blinds and carpet in the Senate Chamber. Shaw is most notably recognized for overseeing the completion of the dome in 1793 and his design of the 1798 House of Delegates Chamber.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> William Voss Elder, III and Lu Bartlett, *John Shaw: Cabinetmaker of Annapolis* (Baltimore, MD: The Baltimore Museum of Art, 1983), pp. 13-25.

<sup>8</sup> Elder and Bartlett, p. 17.

<sup>9</sup> Elder and Bartlett, p. 17.

<sup>10</sup> Morris L. Radoff, *The State House At Annapolis*, Publication No. 17, (Annapolis, MD: The Hall of Records Commission, Department of General Services, State of Maryland, 1972).

Section 8 Page 4

John Shaw House  
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Annapolis, Maryland  
county and state

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With the purchase of 21 State Circle, Shaw relocated his shop to the four room dwelling, presumably to the basement. The location afforded Shaw the luxury of having his workshop within close proximity to the State House. Additionally, his former partner, Archibald Chisholm lived and maintained a shop at nearby 5 School Street (AA-648).

The second significant phase in the physical evolution of the dwelling at 21 State Circle was under the tenure of John Shaw. In 1784, the year Shaw purchased the property, an addition was constructed on the southeast elevation of the two room dwelling. The enlargement afforded the Shaw family with a third room on each of the two stories. Also undertaken by Shaw, prior to 1798, a one-room rear ell was constructed. Set on the western corner of the building, the ell stood two stories in height on a raised basement. It was constructed of brick with weatherboard on the southeast side elevation.

With the death of John Shaw on February 26, 1829, the property at 21 State Circle was devised to his children "as tenants in common and not as joint tenants. And it is my wish and desire that the house in which I now reside [21 State Circle] may not be Sold out of the family, but that my Son George Shaw Should Occupy the Same and that my Said Son George Shaw pay to my other children [Mary Shaw, Elizabeth Franklin, Thomas Shaw and James Shaw] a reasonable rent for the Same annually."<sup>11</sup> Shaw's youngest son, George, had carried on the cabinet trade, learning the craft from his father before venturing into the bookbinding business in 1814. After 1817, George Shaw returned to cabinet making, working with his uncle, William Worthington until 1829. Based on Shaw's will, it is presumed that George Shaw was intended to maintain his father's cabinet shop at 21 State Circle after his death. However, George Shaw died just two months after John Shaw, with control of the family business and State Circle property subsequently devised by 1833 to Thomas Franklin, husband of Elizabeth Shaw.<sup>12</sup>

The dwelling at 21 State Circle was occupied by the Franklin family throughout the 19th century. With the death of Thomas Franklin in

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<sup>11</sup> Will of John Shaw. Anne Arundel County Register of Wills, 1828-1847, T.T.S.No. 1, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Folios 23-27.

<sup>12</sup> Elder and Bartlett, pp. 24-25.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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John Shaw House  
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1865, the dwelling was devised to Ann Franklin. Upon the death of Ann, it was Thomas' intent that the property be transferred to James Shaw Franklin. Thus, within months of receiving title to the land and its improvements, Ann Franklin deeded ownership to James Franklin. Franklin, born in 1827, was state's attorney and clerk of the Court of Appeals. Upon the death of the unmarried Franklin, the State Circle property was inherited by his elder sister, Anne.<sup>13</sup>

Also unmarried, Ann Franklin was the twin sister of Eliza Franklin, who had died in 1853. Ann lived in the building, with her African-American servant, Susan Johnson, until her death in 1901.<sup>14</sup> The property remained in the Franklin family, however, occupied by Elizabeth M. Franklin. During this time, a substantial alteration was preformed on the State Circle facade of the building. The full-width porch, constructed of wood frame on brick piers, largely obscured the primary elevation and any physical reminders of its 1784 alteration.

In 1907, the Franklin family, direct descendants of John Shaw, sold the significant dwelling at 21 State Circle. The conveyance not only ended the 123 year ownership of the Shaw family, but terminated the building's use as a dwelling. It was purchased on July 29, 1907 by the Annapolis Lodge #622, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks as the headquarters of their organization.

In need of additional meeting space and offices, the Elks had a three-story addition constructed on the rear of the building in circa 1921. The oversized addition, constructed of hollow tiles clad in stucco, encased the late 18th century ell and extended the width of the southwest elevation on the main block. A one-story wood frame porch was constructed on the rear of the new addition. The porch was raised to two-stories by 1954. Also during the tenure of the Elks, metal ceilings, marble floors, and marble mantels were installed on the interior of the building. On-site surveys of the Shaw House and the Government House by staff of the Maryland Historical Trust, have substantiated that two of the

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<sup>13</sup> Robert Harry McIntire, *Annapolis Maryland Families*, (Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, Inc., 1980), p. 250.

<sup>14</sup> Record Group 29, "Records of the Bureau of the Census," 1900, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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John Shaw House  
name of property  
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marble mantles in the Shaw House originally decorated the interior of the circa 1865 Government House.<sup>15</sup>

In 1961, the State of Maryland purchased the building at 21 State Circle for \$80,000. It was occupied by the offices of state delegates until 1975, when appropriately, the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) moved into the former dwelling. Overseeing a 1980s renovation, MHT continued to occupy 21 State Circle until 1991. Presently, the building is occupied by the offices of the Lieutenant Governor and staff of the Governor of Maryland.

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<sup>15</sup> William J. Pencek, Jr., Office of Preservation Services, to Hilda Mae Snoops, Governor's Mansion, Letter dated September 1, 1987; David H. Gleason, David H. Gleason Associates, Inc., to Earl Garland, Assistant Projects Administrator, Department of General Services for State of Maryland, Minutes of Meeting, December 8, 1986.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. AA-689

John Shaw House  
name of property  
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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)  
Modern Period (1930-present)

**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  
SOCIAL/Meeting Hall  
GOVERNMENT/Government Office

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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John Shaw House  
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**Chain of Title 21 State Circle (compiled by Shirley Baltz, 1987):**

July 25, 1718: James Stoddert surveyed Lot 73 for  
Margaret Mercier, widow of Francis  
Mercier

February 14, 1720: John and Margaret Mercier Steele to  
Cornelius Brooksby  
Land Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber CW 1 Folio 333

July 19, 1723: Cornelius Brooksby to Cornelius, II and  
Mary Brooksby  
Will Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber 18 Folio 147

June 7, 1745: Cornelius Brooksby, II to Sewell Long and  
Mary Brooksby Long  
Land Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber BB 2 Folio 107

March 31, 1774: Sewell Long to David Long  
Land Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber 39 Folio 884

May 24, 1784: David Long to John Shaw  
Land Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber NH 2 Folio 2

February 26, 1829: Will of John Shaw devised to James,  
George, Mary, Elizabeth, and Thomas Shaw  
Will Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber TTS 1 Folio 23

December 4, 1829: Thomas Shaw died in default of note to  
Thomas Franklin and James Shaw, who take  
over title to property  
Land Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber WSG 15 Folio 44

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- March 28, 1832: Somerville Pinkney, Trustee for estate of John Shaw, to Dennis Claude  
Land Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber WSG 16 Folio 617
- November 18, 1833: Thomas S. Alexander and Somerville Pinkney, Trustees for David Long and John Shaw, to Thomas Franklin  
Will Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber WSG 18 Folio 286
- May 18, 1865: Thomas Franklin devised store to George E. Franklin, and house to Ann Franklin, then to James Shaw Franklin  
Will Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber RID 1 Folio 53
- October 26, 1865: Ann Franklin conveyed dwelling house to James Shaw Franklin  
Land Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber NHG 13 Folio 485
- March 23, 1881: John Shaw Franklin devised to sister Anne Franklin  
Will Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber RID 1 Folio 438
- April 1, 1884: George Franklin devised to wife, Maria, and children, Elizabeth and Maria Franklin  
Will Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber GW 4 Folio 169
- April 20, 1896: Mother Maria Franklin devised to James, Thomas and George Franklin  
Land Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber GW 2 Folio 245

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
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John Shaw House  
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April 27, 1896: James Franklin and George Franklin, Jr.  
convey interest to Elizabeth and Maria  
Franklin  
Land Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber GW 4 Folio 169

January 10, 1901: John Wirt Randall to Charles and Anna  
Margaret Scharf  
Land Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber GW 23 Folio 399

January 10, 1901: Charles and Anna Margaret Scharf to John  
Wirt Randall  
Land Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber GW 23 Folio 400

July 26, 1904: Elizabeth M. Franklin devised her  
interest to James and Fannie R. Franklin,  
George E. Franklin, Jr., and Maria C.  
Franklin, heirs of George E. Franklin  
Will Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber RD 1 Folio 237

April 29, 1907: James and Fannie R. Franklin, George E.  
Franklin, Jr. and Maria C. Franklin,  
heirs of George E. Franklin to John Wirt  
Randall, Trustee  
Land Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber GW 53 Folio 353

July 29, 1907: John Wirt Randall, Trustee for the  
Franklin heirs, to The Annapolis Lodge  
#622, B.P.O.E.  
Land Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber GW 53 Folio 353

October 17, 1961: The Annapolis Lodge #622, B.P.O.E., to  
the State of Maryland  
Land Records of Anne Arundel  
Liber GTC 1524 Folio 136

# John Shaw House

21 State Circle

1720-25

The John Shaw House is one of the many 18th-century gambrel-roofed structures in Annapolis, although larger and more ornate than counterparts such as the Patrick Creagh House (c. 1735-47) or William Slicer House (c. 1770). Renowned for its association with John Shaw, the cabinetmaker who began his career in Annapolis as early as 1771 and owned the house from 1784 until his death, the dwelling has a complex architectural history which is evident through its many periods of architectural change.

Cornelius Brooksby purchased half of Lot 73, originally owned by John and Margaret Mercier Steele, in 1720. Although not completed until two years after his death (in 1725), Brooksby began building the dwelling house presently known as the John Shaw House soon after the purchase.

The brick walls of the one-and-one-half story house have been raised on a brick foundation, both

covered with stucco which has been scored to resemble ashlar stone. A front door with fine tracery work (unusual for this area) was originally centered on a four-bay facade with two gable-end chimneys. Two dormers were symmetrically-placed on either side of the door. By 1788, the house had been extended with an addition three bays to the east. A small front porch was also in place by this time, with side steps leading to the grade.

A wing, noted in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax, is now buried in the large, rear addition. By 1820, rear porches were added and a Chinese trellis widow's walk ornamented the gambrel roof, served by a rare ladder stair with staggered steps.

Around 1900, the front porch was extended along the entire length of the house incorporating the earlier one-bay entrance porch with a new decorative balustrade. About the same time, many of the out-buildings listed on the 1798 Direct Tax, including a

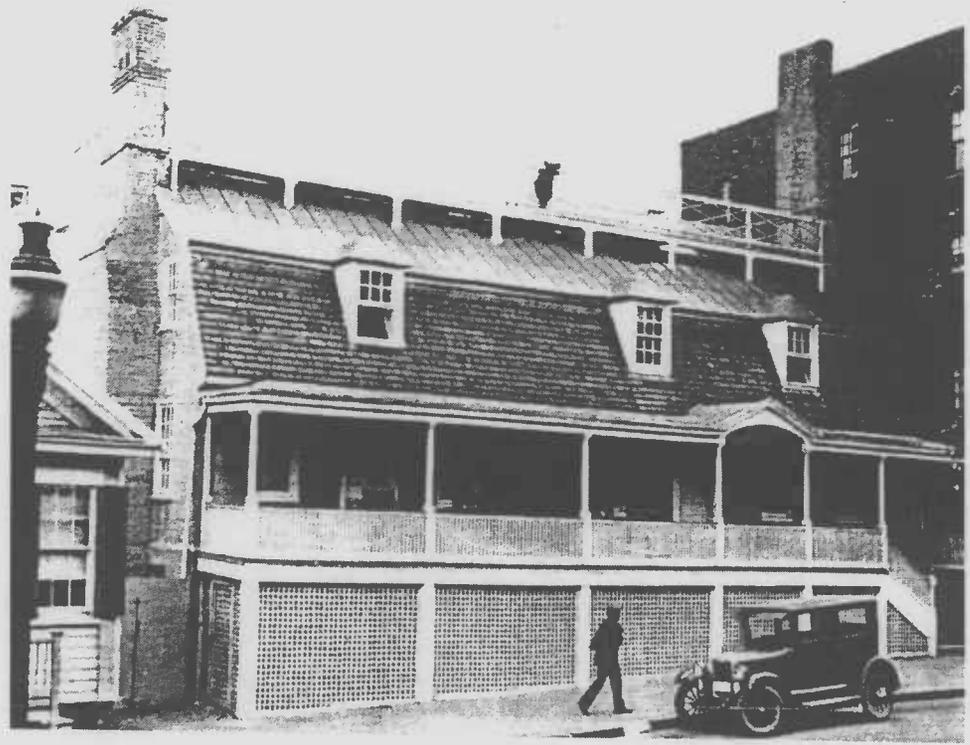


*John Shaw House, 21 State Circle, prior to 1890. The Shaw House is one of the largest and most ornate 18th-century gambrel-roof structures in Annapolis. Built c. 1720 for Cornelius Brooksby, it is significant for its association with John Shaw, the renowned Annapolis cabinetmaker who lived here in the late 18th century. Courtesy of HABS, Library of Congress.*

frame shop and a brick smoke-house, as well as a portion of the rear porches, were razed. The st major exterior change came between 1920 and 1930, when a large three-story addition was built onto the rear of the structure. Despite the many changes, much of the exterior's Georgian-period detailing survived, including a molded cornice and molded window casings.

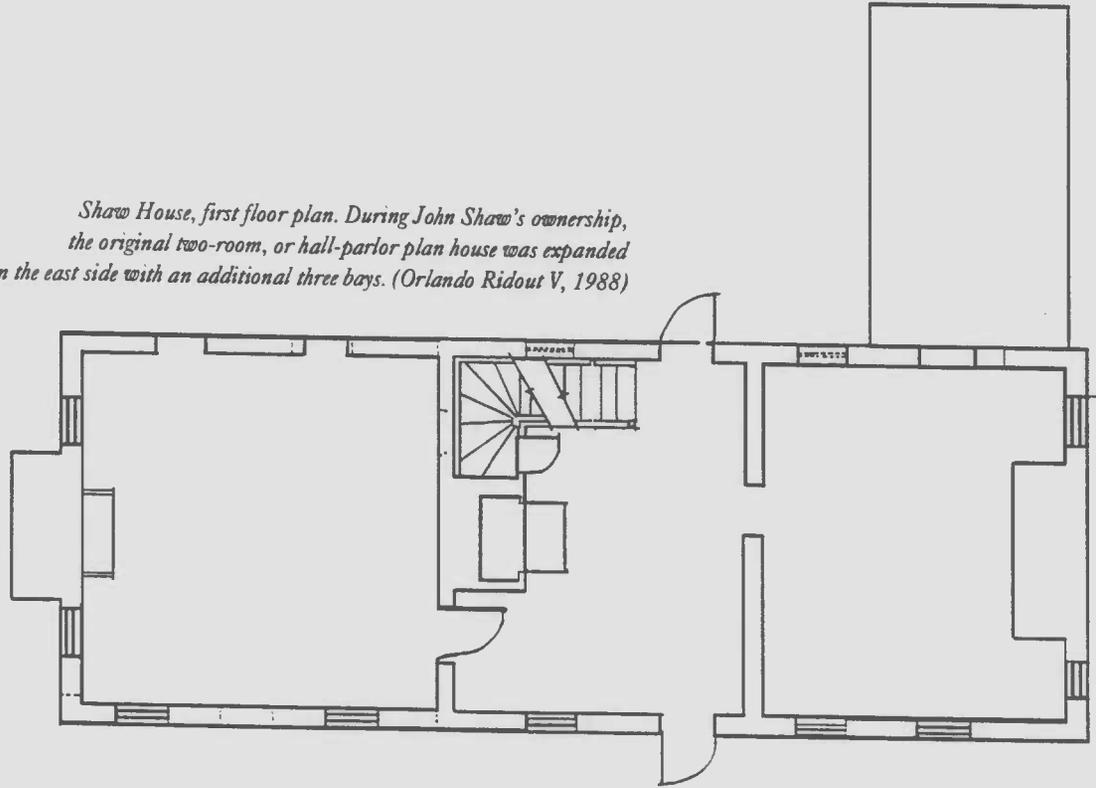
As with the exterior of the house, the original interior building fabric has withstood a plethora of alterations. Early chair railing and wainscoting, random-width flooring, and exposed ceiling joists with beaded edges are among the surviving details.

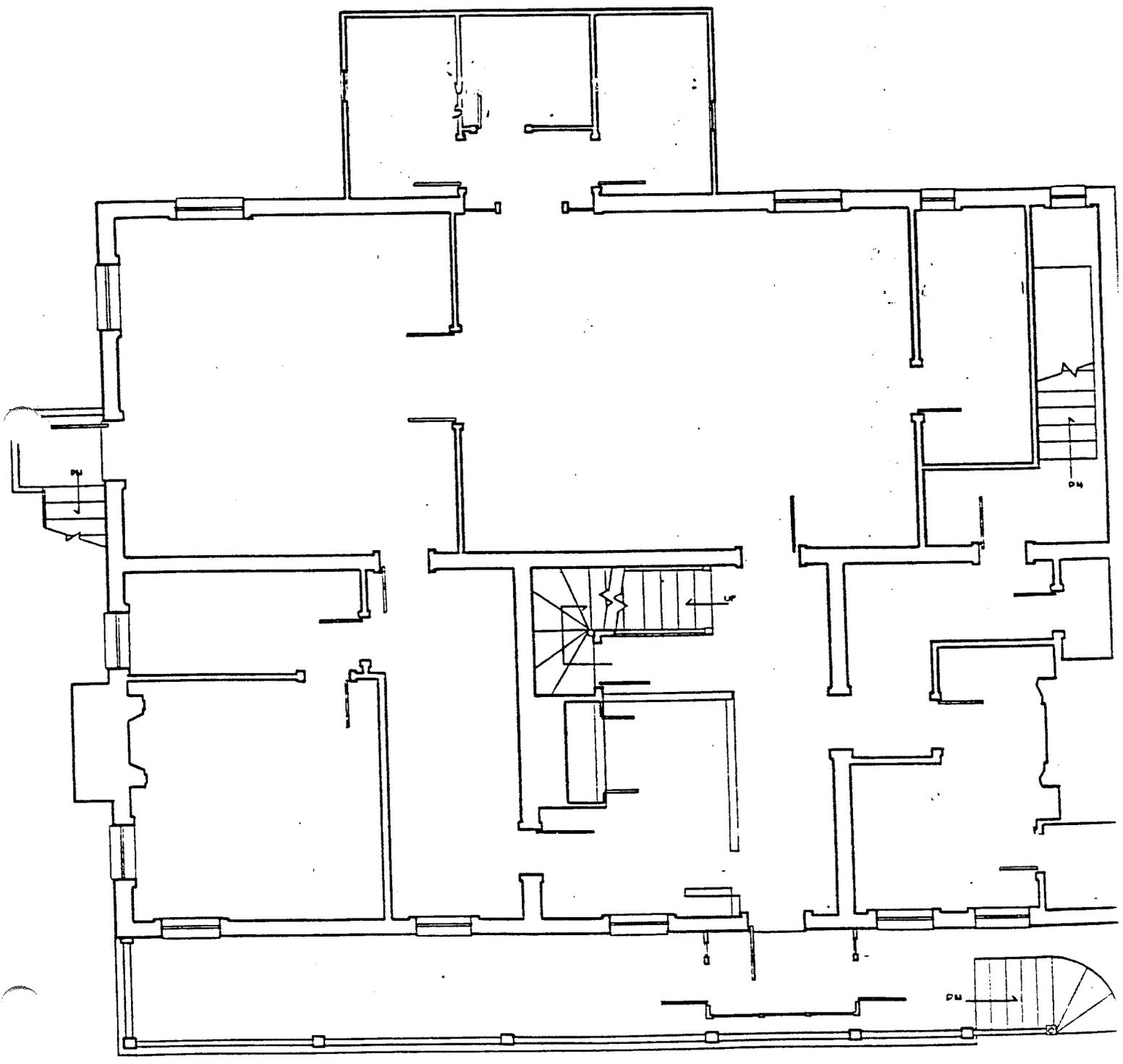
A large fireplace in the basement suggests an original use as a kitchen. Marble flooring on the basement floor and marble mantel pieces were installed in the 1930s and are believed to be features salvaged from the 1860s Governor's Mansion. Shaw House served as offices for the Maryland Historical Trust from 1975 until 1991.



*John Shaw House. A c. 1929 view showing the expanded front porch and large three-story addition at the rear. The Chinese Chippendale widow's walk was added by 1820. Here it is adorned with a symbol of the Elks organization, occupants in the early 20th century. (Susan Nash, Colonial Williamsburg Special Collections)*

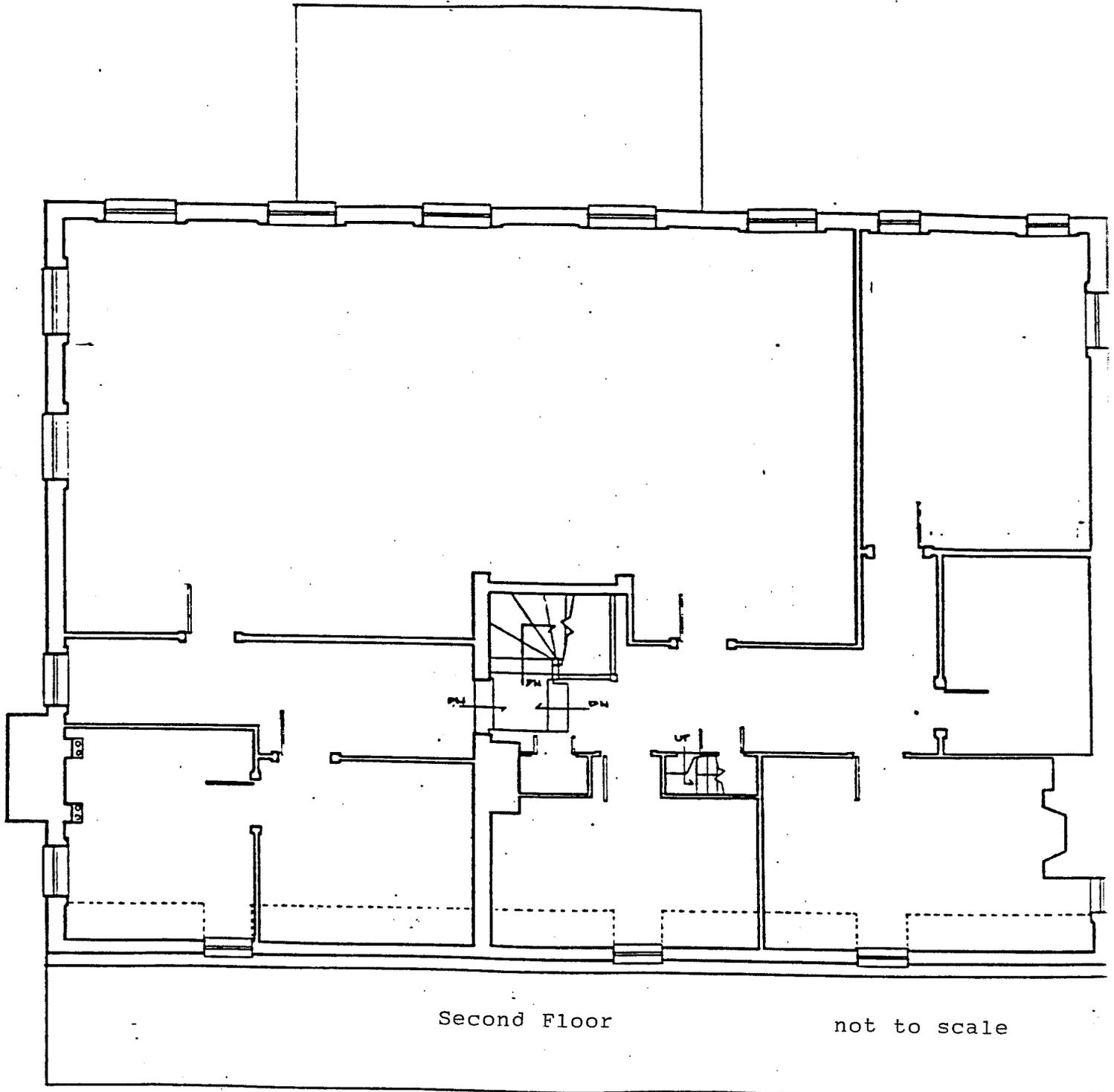
*Shaw House, first floor plan. During John Shaw's ownership, the original two-room, or hall-parlor plan house was expanded on the east side with an additional three bays. (Orlando Ridout V, 1988)*





First Floor not to scale  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

2.



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BROOKSBY-SHAW HOUSE

AA-689

HABS No. MD-250

HABS  
MD.

2-ANNA

10-

Cornelius Brooksby- John Shaw House  
#10 State Circle  
Annapolis  
Anne Arundel County  
Maryland

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013

JOHN SHAW'S Home, State Circle ( now Elks Club )  
Annapolis, Maryland

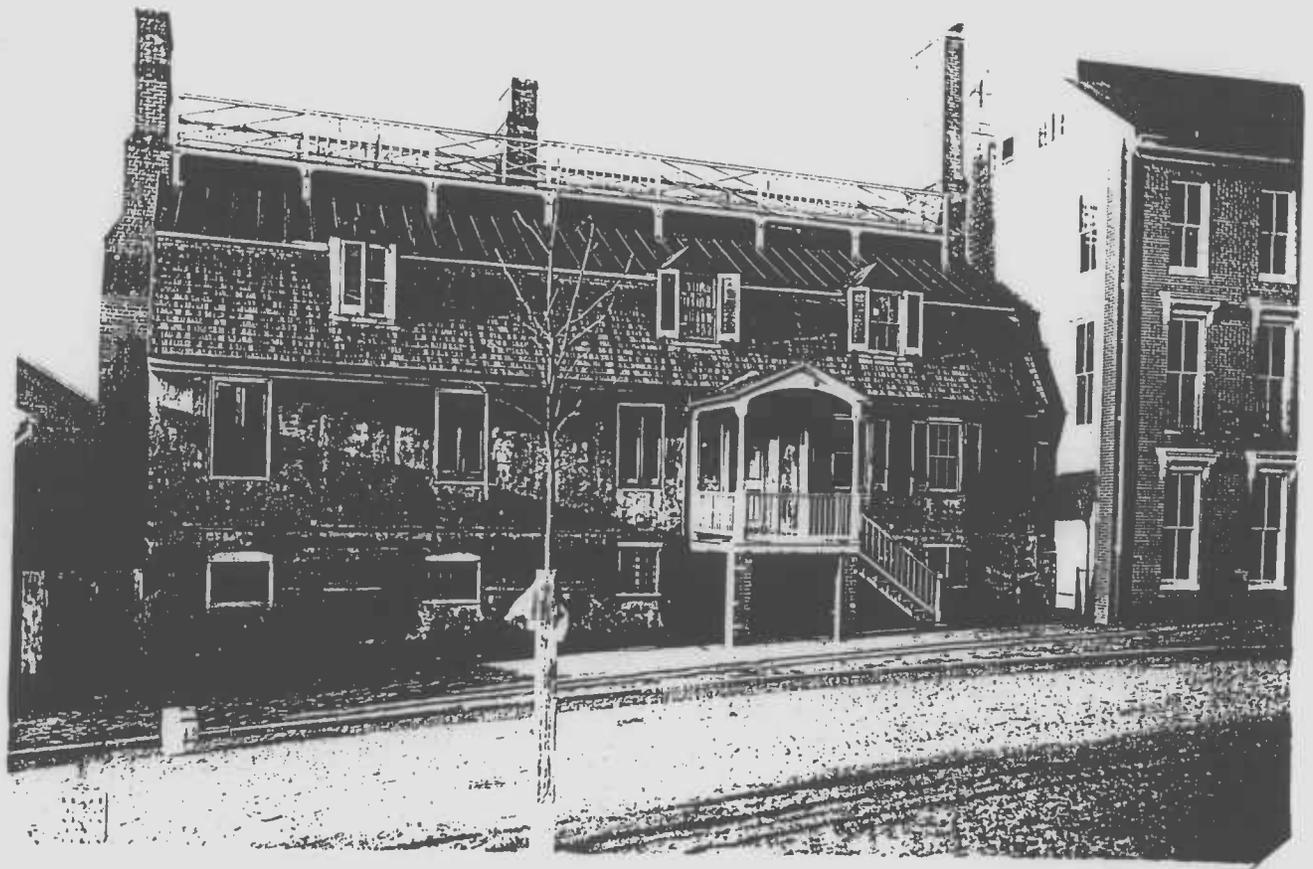
AA-689

HABS. NO. Md.

HABS  
M.D.

2-ANNA

10-3



Historic American Buildings Survey  
E. H. Pickering, Photographer  
(PHOTO TAKEN BEFORE 1890)

September 1936

AA-689

-AES  
MD  
ANNA  
10.

BROOKSBY-SHAW HOUSE  
Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Date of erection: 1720-1725 and later

Present condition: Altered in 1922 for Elks Lodge

Builder: Cornelius Brooksby and Anne Gough

Description:

One and a half stories; brick; gambrel roof; "stagger stairs" in attic; kitchen in basement; "captain's walk"; addition by Cornelius Brooksby, Jr., in 1745. Other alterations and additions to interior by Sowell Lang before 1751. East end addition by John Shaw, 1784.

Additional data:

Now used as BPOE Lodge Hall.

Erected 1720-21 by Cornelius Brooksby, completed by Anne Gough his widow 1725. Addition on Church St. by Cornelius Brooksby Jr. and his father-in-law Thomas Gough prior to 1745. Interior improved and steps to trap door in roof by Sowell Long betw. 1745 and 1751. Last addition by Elks 1922.

Ground allotted to Mrs. Margaret Mersier widow of John. Cornelius Brooksby bought ground after his marriage to Anne Shahan on March 23, 1719 and built a 2 story house with 2 living rooms and basement with a single room upstairs. Cornelius Brooksby will probated July 19, 1723 left house to son John and butcher shop to daughter Mary. Cornelius (John) Brooksby sold his interest to his sister and brother-in-law Sowell Long June 7, 1745. David Long son of Sowell and Mary Long transferred the property to John Shaw May 24, 1784. John Shaw's will probated March 9, 1829, left the house to his son George.

Information furnished by A. Guy Miller, Sect. Elk's Lodge, Annapolis 1934

Prepared by Delos H. Smith 1940

Brooksby-Shaw House (John Shaw House)  
21 State Circle (Current Information)  
Annapolis  
Anne Arundel County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-250

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Addendum to  
Cornelius Brooksby-John Shaw House  
#10 State Circle (As originally recorded)  
Annapolis  
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Maryland

PHOTOGRAPHS

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

Brooksby-Shaw House (John Shaw House)  
21 State Circle (Current Information)  
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Addendum to  
Cornelius Brooksby-John Shaw House  
#10 State Circle (As originally recorded)  
Annapolis  
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Maryland

Photograph MD-250-1 has already been sent to the Library of Congress.

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer 1964

MD-250-2 DETAIL OF TYPICAL WINDOW

MD-250-3 ATTIC STAIR

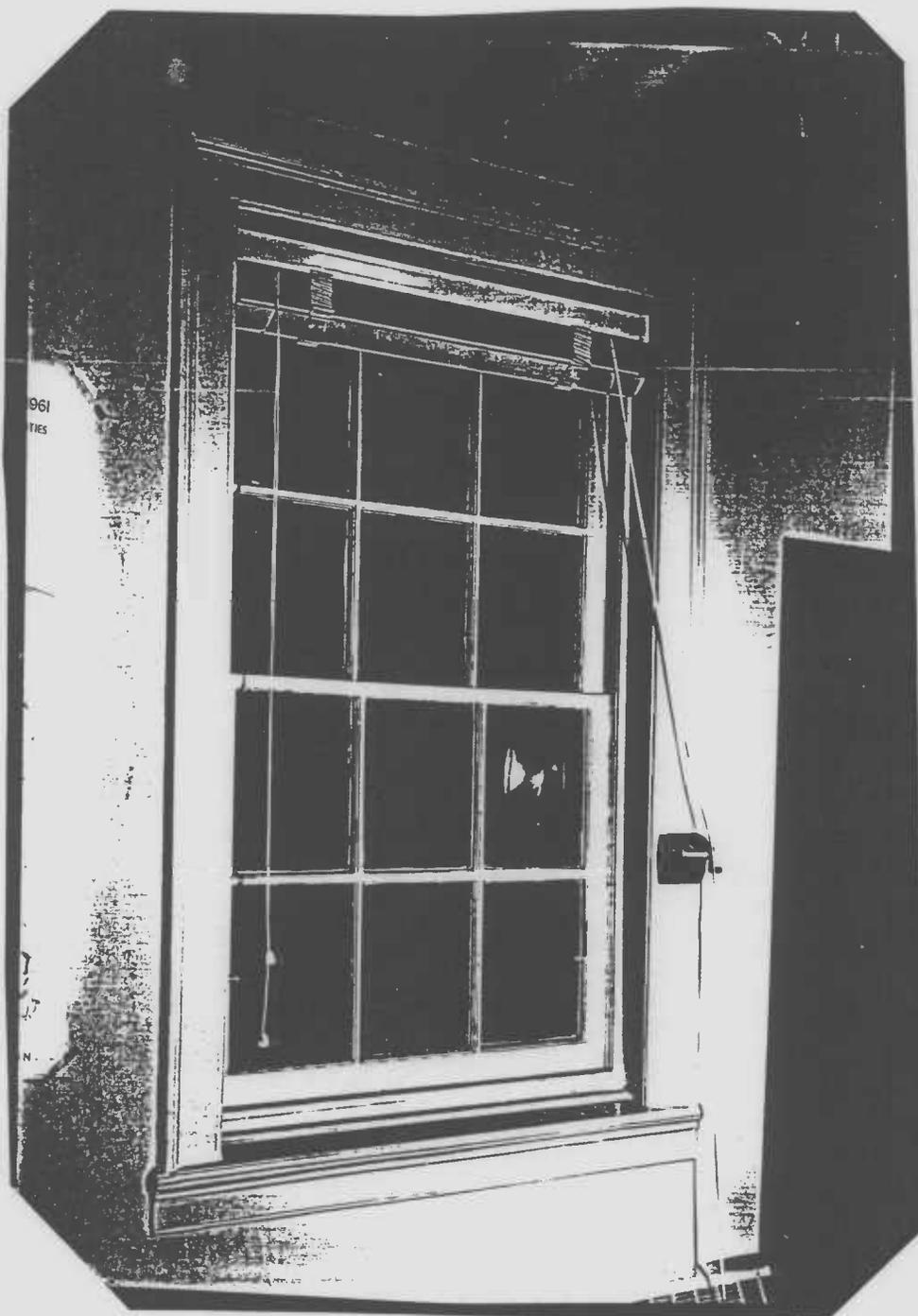
MD-250-4 ATTIC, DETAIL OF WINDOW STAY

AA-689

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

HABS No. MD-250-2

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

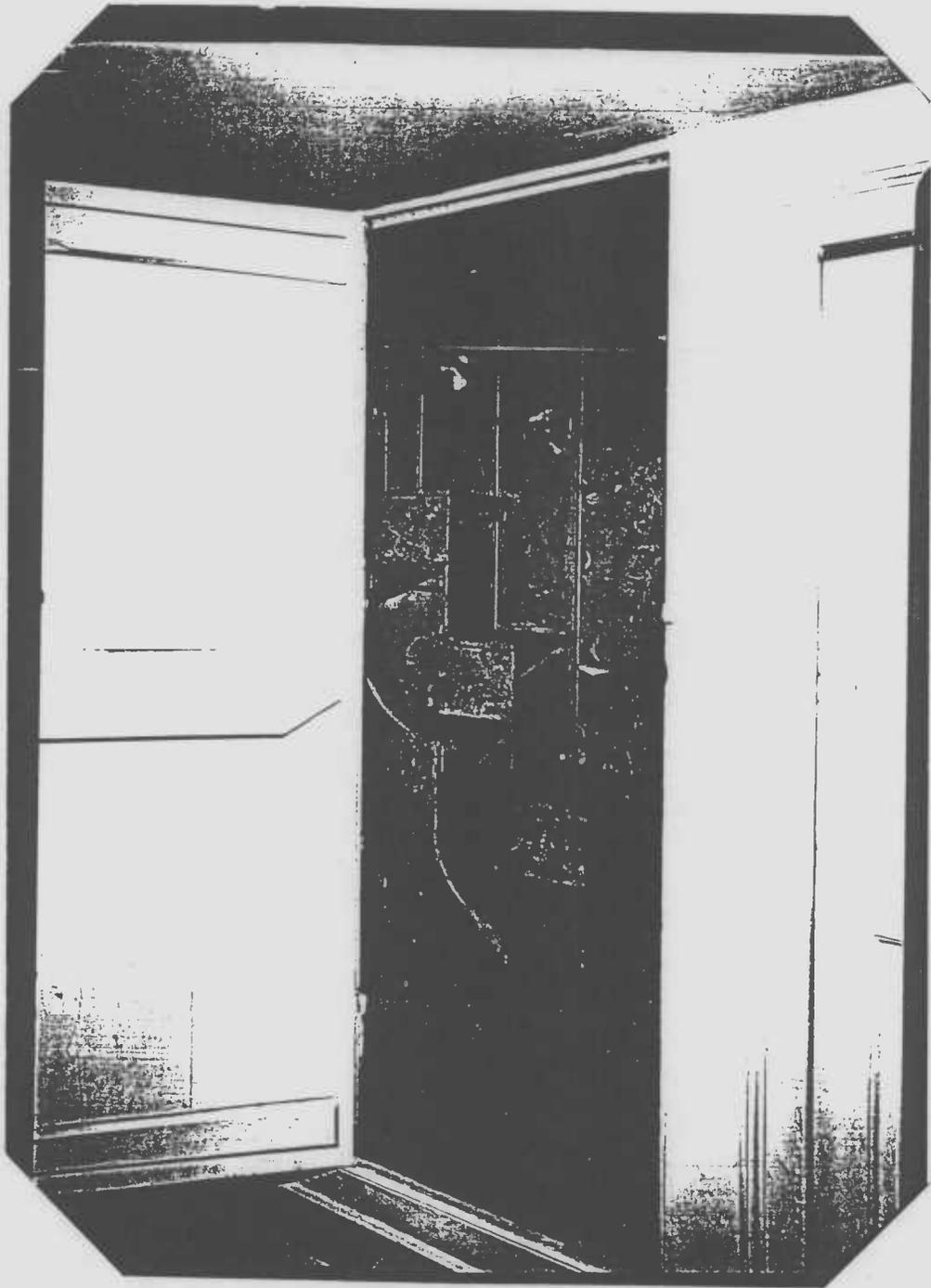
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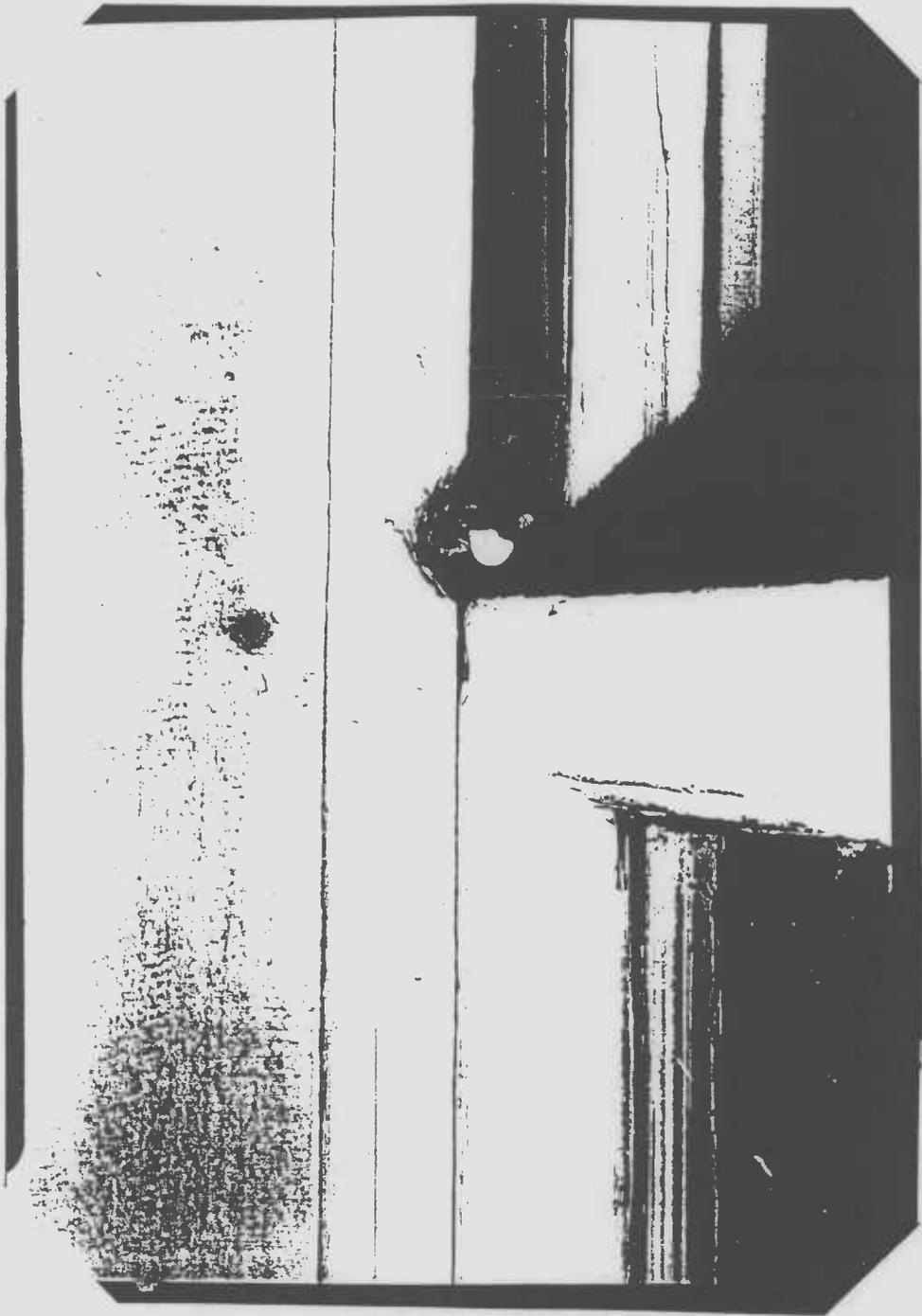


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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

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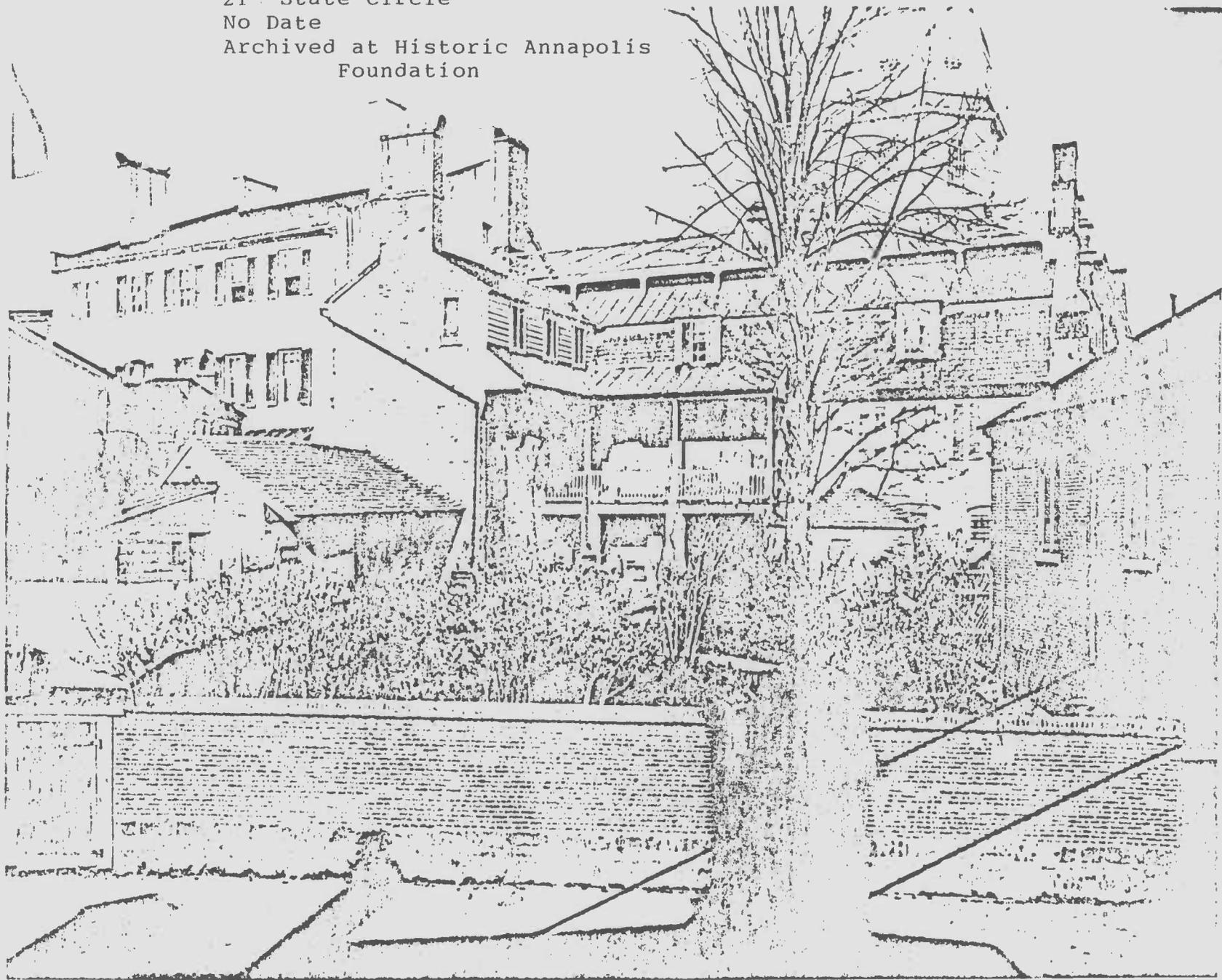
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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Maryland	COUNTY Anne Arundel	TOWN OR VICINITY Annapolis
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Brooksby-Shaw House		HABS NO. MD-250
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE John Shaw House		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 21 State Circle		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1719-1721	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) An 18th century house ,largely altered, in excellent condition and with several interesting original features.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Colonial		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick, laid in English bond, painted. Facade is stuccoed and marked to simulate stone.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) One and 1/2 stories above high basement;55' long; originally rectangular in plan.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Originally a small porch in front of entrance door, with a gable roof, a low elliptical arch and slender columns, approached from the side by a wooden stair. The present porch incorporates this motif. A large brick chimney exists at each gable end, projecting from facade. Main entrance has wide wooden architrave 7 glazed transom. The roof is a gambrel; there is a molded wooden cornice in front, now obscured by the porch. There are three hipped dormers on the front of the house.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The stair leading to the attic is unusually steep, with treads staggered (alternating between the right and left halves of the stair).		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1745 "Captain's Walk" added; 1784 east end addition; 1922 Converted to Elk's Club. For further information see Data Page one.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE The house now serves as the offices of the Maryland Historical Trust.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Data at the Library of Congress. Report submitted to HABS on August 7, 1964 by Harley J. McKee, N.P.S. Architect		
COMPILED BY	DATE	

211 State Circle  
No Date  
Archived at Historic Annapolis  
Foundation



AA-689

AA-689

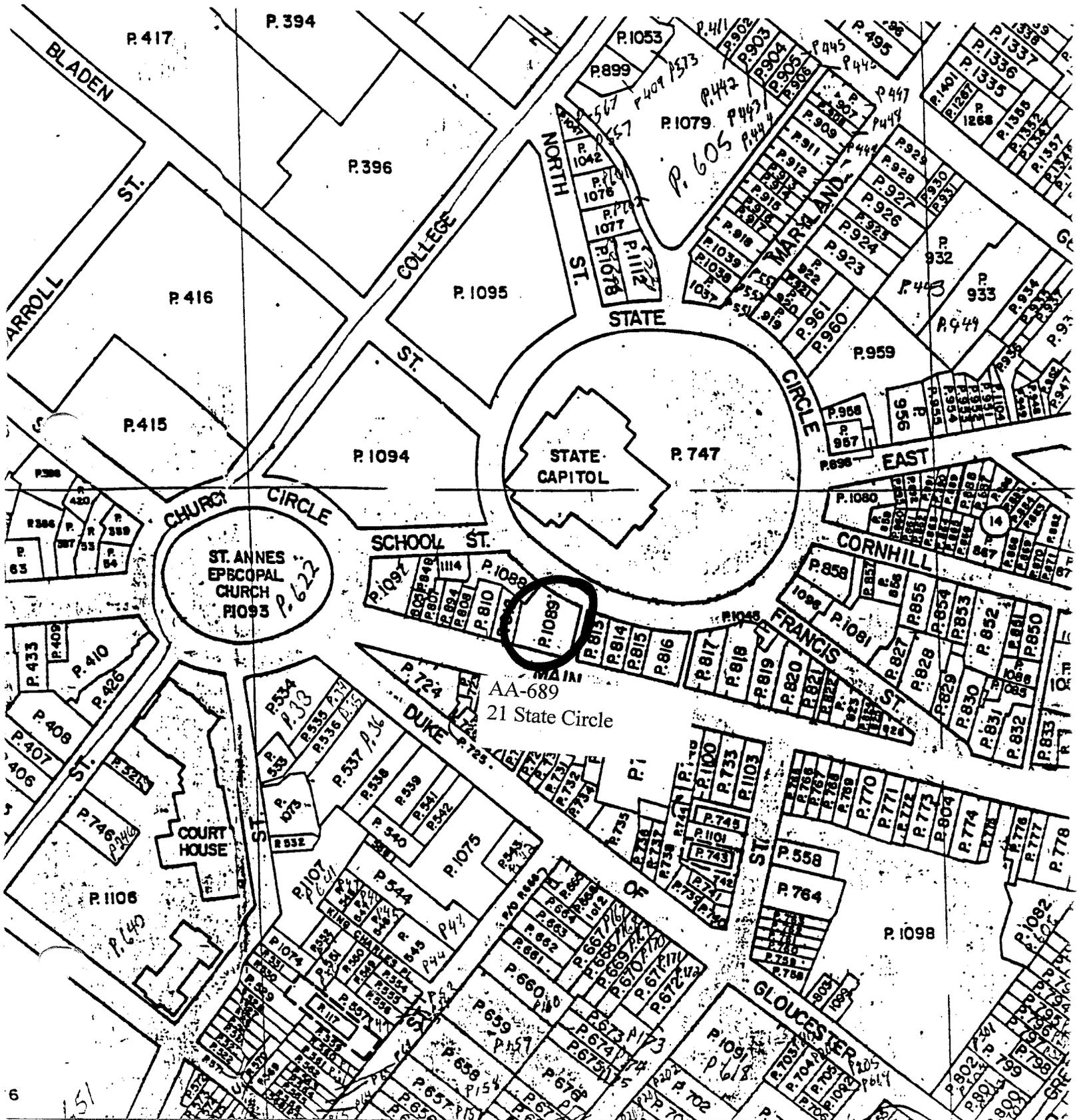
As seen in Marion E. and Mame Warren's  
The Train's Done Been and Gone  
21 State Circle  
circa 1902

s

Marion E. Warren settled in Annapolis thirty



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



AA-689  
21 State Circle



AA-689

21 STATE CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

NE ELEVATION, LOOKING WEST

1 OF 25



AA-689

21 STATE CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

NE ELEVATION LOOKING SE

2 OF 25



AA-689

21 STATE CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRAILERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

ENTRY, NE ELEVATION, LOOKING

WEST

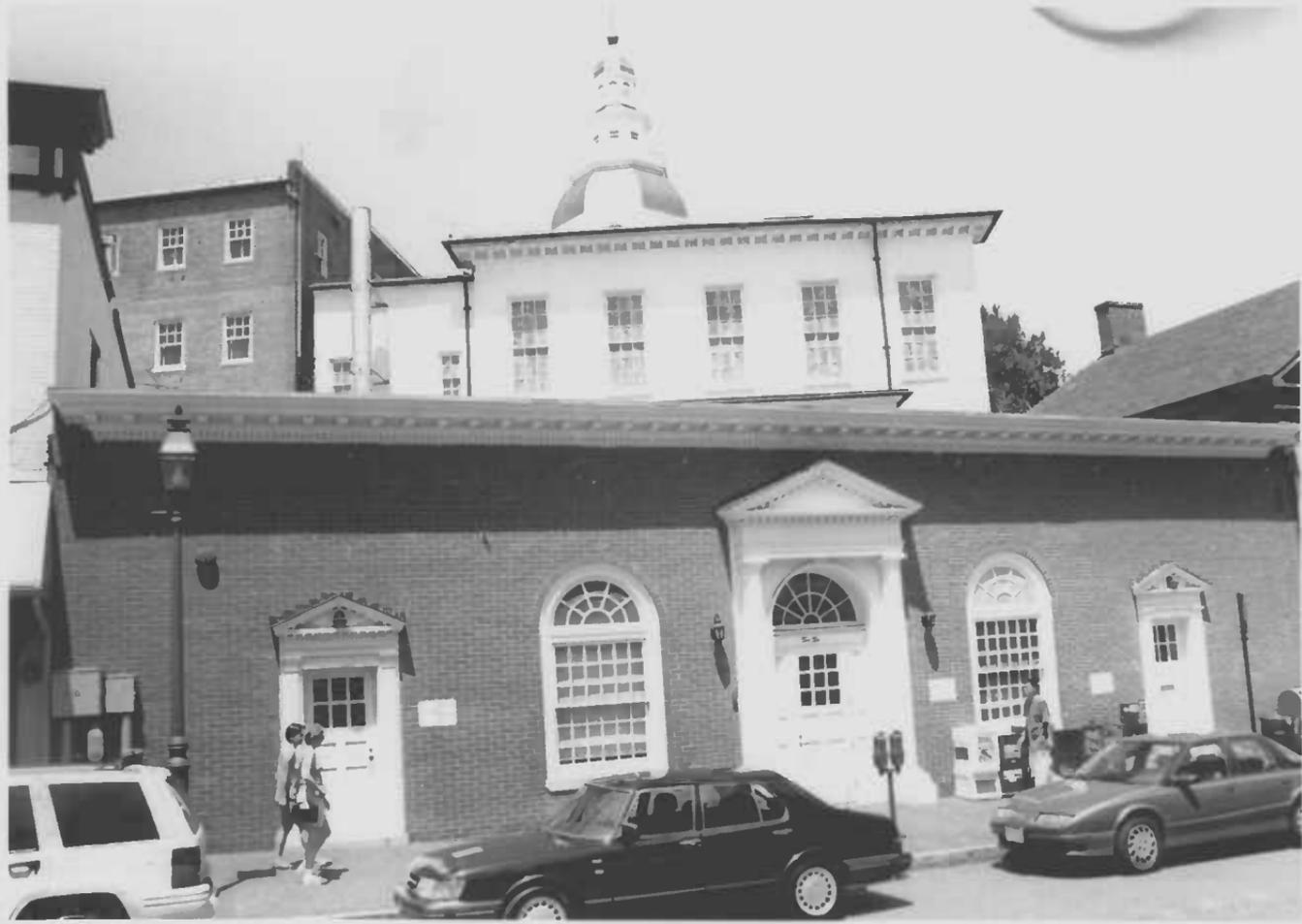
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21 STATE CIRCLE  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
JUNE 1999  
MD SHPO  
NE ELEVATION, LOOKING EAST  
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ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
JUNE 1999  
MD SHPO  
FOUNDATION, PHASE II, LOOKING SOUTH  
5 OF 25



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21 STATE CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

REAR ADDITION ON MAIN STREET,

LOOKING NORTH

6 OF 25



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ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

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SE ELEVATION, LOOKING WEST

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SOUTHEAST ELEVATION, LOOKING NE

8 OF 25



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ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
JUNE 1999  
MD SHPO  
EAST CORNER, LOOKING WEST  
9 OF 25



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ANNA POLIS, MD

~~TRACERIES~~

JUNE 1999

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ROOF, LOOKING NORTH

10 OF 25



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ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

HALL, LOOKING SOUTH

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JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

MAIN ENTRY, LOOKING NORTH

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NORTH ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, LOOKING WEST

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21 STATE CIRCLE  
ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

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NORTH ROOM, FIRST FLOOR

LOOKING WEST

14 OF 25



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SECOND FLOOR HALL, LOOKING EAST

15 OF 25



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21 STATE CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

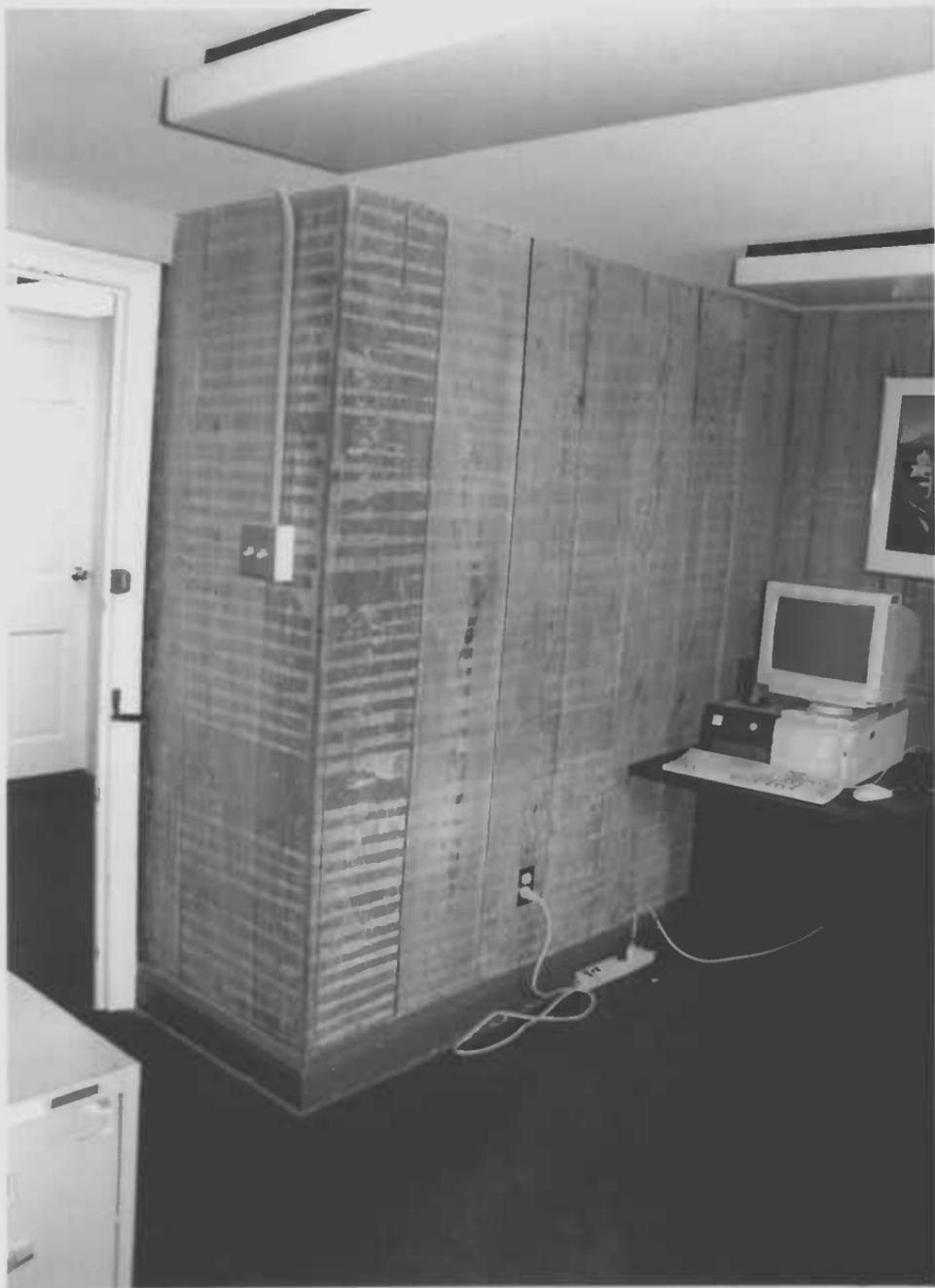
TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

STAIR, SECOND FLOOR, LOOKING SOUTH

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21 STATE CIRCLE  
ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

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ATTIC STAIR WALL, SECOND FLOOR,  
LOOKING WEST

17 OF 25



DO NOT PUT INSIDE CLOSET

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ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
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CHIMNEY CLOSET, SECOND FLOOR,  
NORTH ROOM, LOOKING WEST

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21 STATE CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

STAGGERED ATTIC STAIR,

LOOKING NORTH

19 OF 25



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ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
JUNE 1999  
MD SHPO  
STAIR, BASEMENT, LOOKING SOUTH  
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21 STATE CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

NW WALL, RELIEVING ARCH OF CHIMNEY

BASEMENT, LOOKING NORTH

21 OF 25



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21 STATE CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

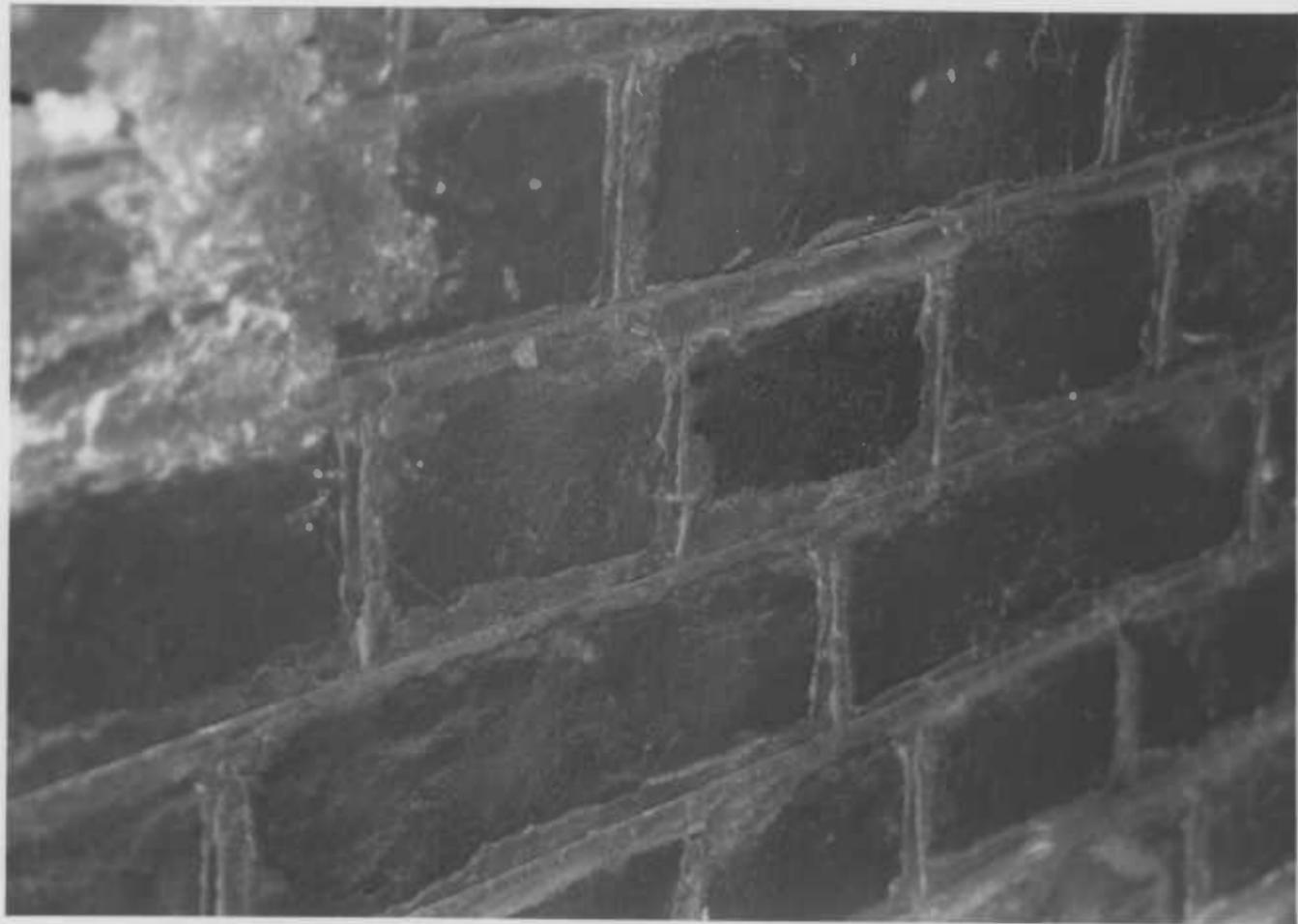
TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

ATTIC, LOOKING SE

22 OF 25



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21 STATE CIRCLE  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
JUNE 1999

MD SHPO  
BRICKWORK, GABLE END ON ORIGINAL EXTERIOR  
SE WALL, NOW WITHIN INTERIOR OF ATTIC

23 OF 25



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21 STATE CIRCLE  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRALERIES  
JUNE 1999  
MD SHPO  
ROOF RAFTERS, LOOKING SE  
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21 STATE CIRCLE  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
JUNE 1999  
MD SHPO  
ATTIC, INTERIOR BRICKWORK OF SE WALL  
THAT WAS ORIGINAL PORTION OF BUILDING

25 OF 25

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

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET  
 Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: <u>AA 689</u>	
NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:	
UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing	
U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:	
PRESENT FORMAL NAME:	
ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: Brooksby-Shaw House/House of Delegates	
PRESENT USE: Office	
ORIGINAL USE: SF Res	
ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:	
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR: Cornelius Brooksby	
PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent (X) Good ( ) Fair ( ) Poor: ( )	
THEME:	
STYLE: Georgian	
DATE BUILT: 1722	

COUNTY: Anne Arundel
TOWN: Annapolis
LOCATION: 21 State Circle
COMMON NAME: Shaw House
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Res Map 32 Par 616
OWNER: State of Maryland
ADDRESS: Board of Public Works
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes (X) No ( ) Restricted ( )
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: HABS Local ( ) State ( ) National (X) <input checked="" type="radio"/>

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

- Foundation: Stone ( ) Brick (X) Concrete ( ) Concrete Block ( )
- Wall Structure
  - Wood Frame: Post and Beam ( ) Balloon ( )
  - Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick (X) Stone ( ) Concrete ( ) Concrete Block ( )
  - Iron ( ) D. Steel ( ) E. Other:
- Wall Covering: Clapboard ( ) Board and Batten ( ) Wood Shingle ( ) Shiplap ( ) Novelty ( ) Stucco (X) Sheet Metal ( ) Aluminum ( ) Asphalt Shingle ( ) Brick Veneer ( ) Stone Veneer ( ) Asbestos Shingle ( )  
Bonding Pattern: Other:
- Roof Structure
  - Truss: Wood (X) Iron ( ) Steel ( ) Concrete ( )
  - Other:
- Roof Covering: Slate (X) Wood Shingle ( ) Asphalt Shingle ( ) Sheet Metal (X)  
Built Up ( ) Rolled ( ) Tile ( ) Other:
- Engineering Structure:
- Other:

Appendages: Porches (X) Towers ( ) Cupolas ( ) Dormers (X) Chimneys (X) Sheds ( ) Ells (X)  
Wings ( ) Other: Gallery at break in gambrel

Roof Style: Gable ( ) Hip ( ) Shed ( ) Flat ( ) Mansard ( ) Gambrel (X) Jerkinhead ( )  
Saw Tooth ( ) With Monitor ( ) With Bellcast ( ) With Parapet ( ) With False Front ( )  
Other:

Number of Stories: 1 1/2  
 Number of Bays: 7  
 Approximate Dimensions: 50 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:

AA-689

Gambrel roof with end wall chimneys has had Chippendale "Widow's Walk" added; three hipped dormers assymetrically placed; molded cornice; molded casings at windows and transoms; lit doors; later full width porch and enclosed entry vestibule; foundation walls stuccoed and scaored, rear wall extended as addition.

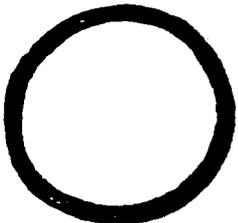
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Excellent though altered example of early 18thC Gambrel roof style with Georgian period detailing. Alterations done with considerable skill and do not detract from visual appearance, but confuse architectural scheme of structure. 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

Form 10-445  
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY A.A. TOWN Annapolis VICINITY STREET NO. 21 State <i>Circle</i>  ORIGINAL OWNER Cornelius Brooksby ORIGINAL USE residence PRESENT OWNER State of Maryland PRESENT USE legislative offices WALL CONSTRUCTION brick NO. OF STORIES 2	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY
	2. NAME Brooksby-Shaw House  DATE OR PERIOD 1722 STYLE colonial ARCHITECT BUILDER Cornelius Brooksby
3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

The Brooksby-Shaw is yet another edition of Annapolis' early 18th c. gambrel roof structures. Larger and more ornate than 45 Fleet or the Creagh House, for example, the front has been scored to look like dressed stone and there is a front porch running the length of the house with sling columns and a decorative baluster. A Chinese Chippendale "window's walk" has been added to the top of the gambrel. The rear of the building is not gambrel roofed but with enlarged rectangular block with stained glass windows facing Main Street; added early 20th c. Interesting architecturally and important across from State House; State Circle facade should be permanently preserved.

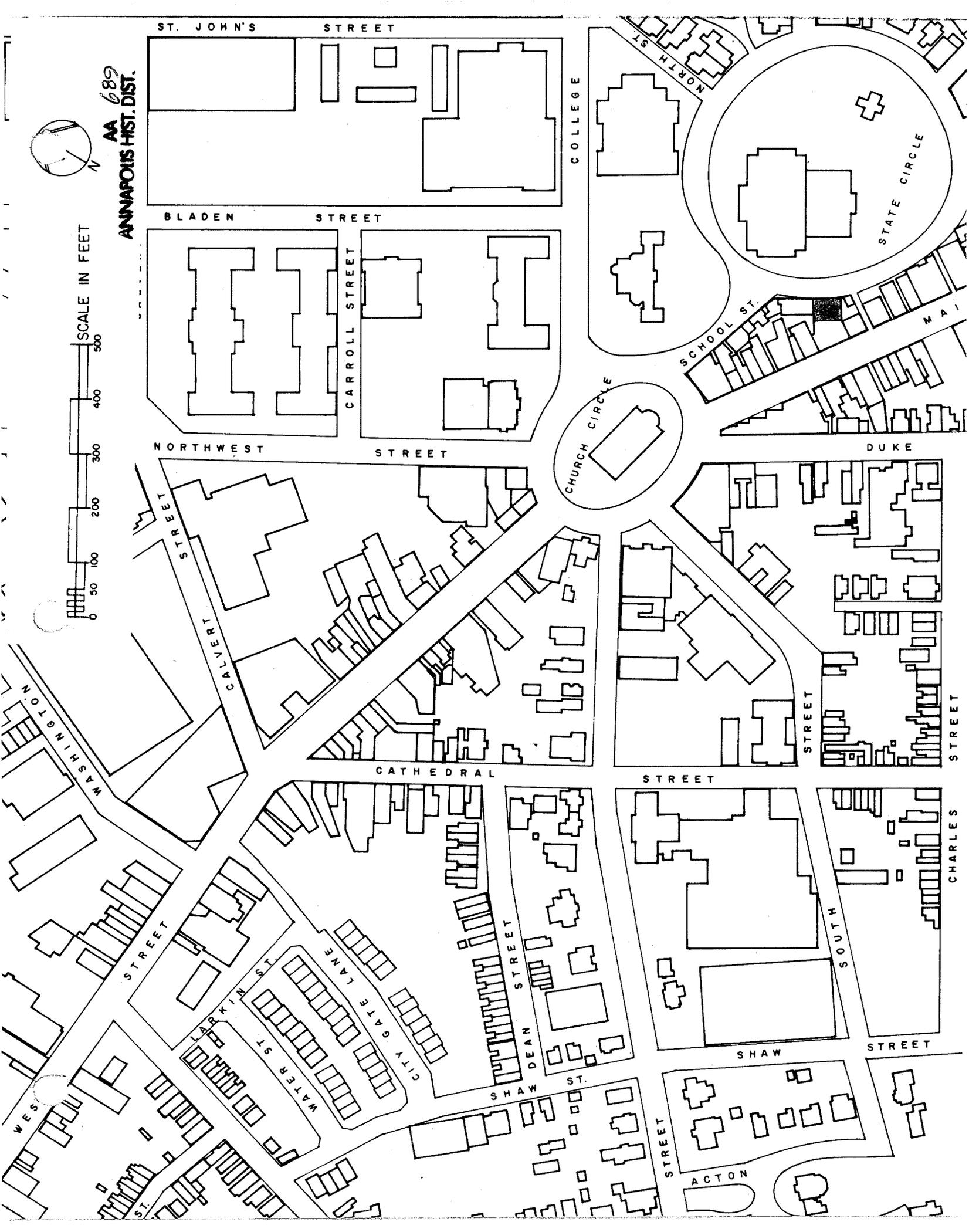
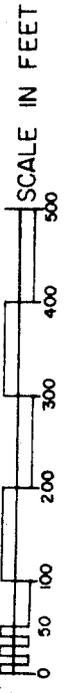


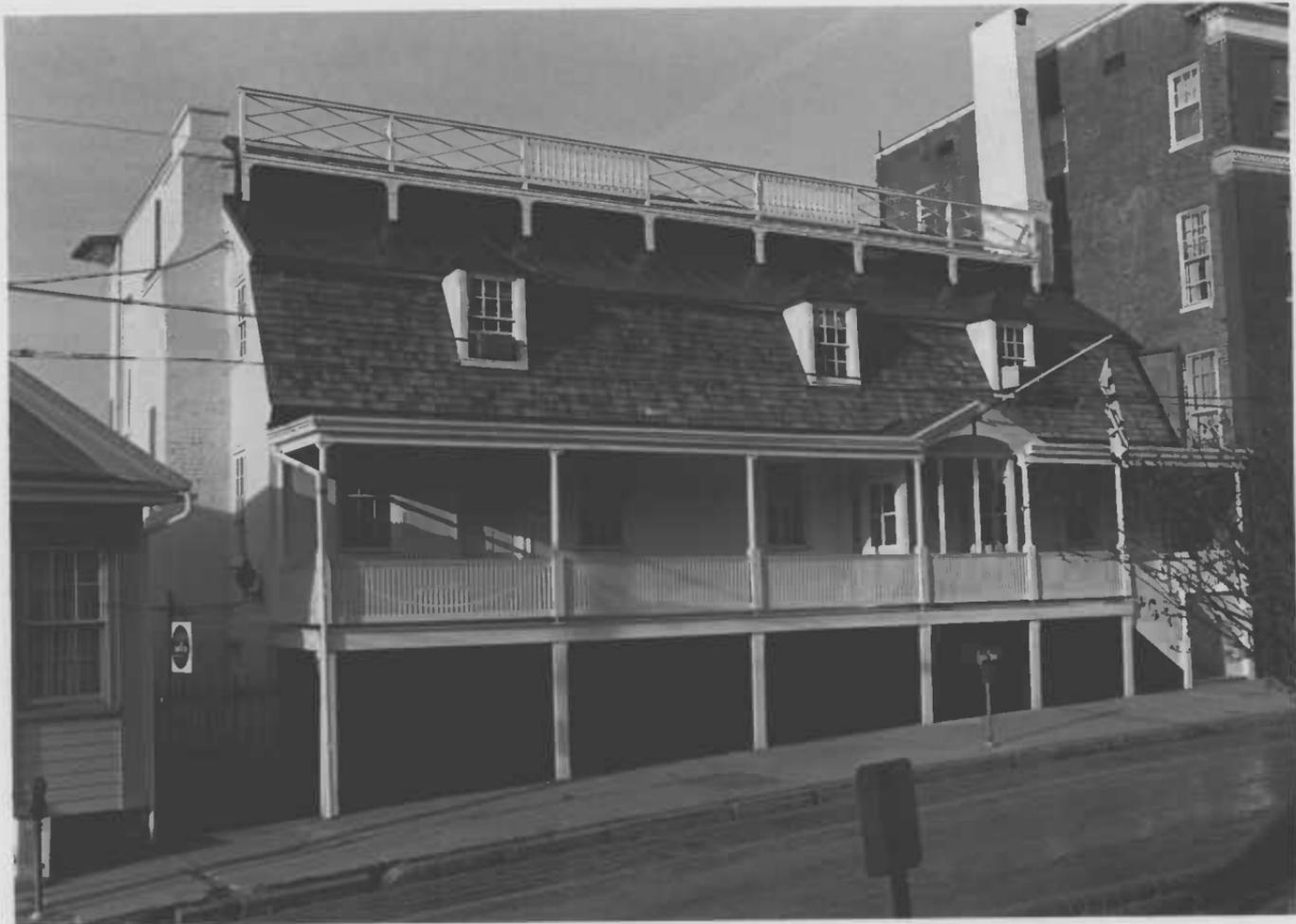
Exterior Very good

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

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 	7. PHOTOGRAPH <del>XXXXXXXXXX</del>
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. O. Ridout	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER William D. Morgan Columbia University, N. Y. C.  DATE OF RECORD Aug 25, 1967

AA 689  
ANNAPOLIS HIST. DIST.





Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis  
Anne Arundel Co.  
Maryland

February 1985

photo: Ronald L. Andrews

neg: MHT



21 State Circle      AA 689  
Annapolis, Anne Arundel County  
Russell Wright      July, 1982  
Maryland Historical Trust,  
Annapolis, Maryland  
NW Elevation/camera facing SE



John Shaw House

PMJ 5/77

AA-689



AA-6879

John Shaw House

Pamela M. James 5/77