AA-721 c. 1895
Douglass Summer Home
(Twin Oaks)
3200 Wayman Avenue
Highland Beach

The Douglass Summer House, built in 1894-95, is located in the small community of Highland Beach, five miles south of Annapolis on the Chesapeake Bay. The Douglass House, situated at the corner of Wayman and Bay Avenues, is one of the first built in Highland Beach which was established in 1893 by Douglass' son, Major Charles Douglass. Facing east, it enjoys a spectacular view of the Bay. The 2 ½ story Queen Anne style frame dwelling measures 3 bays by 4 bays with a central entrance and has a hip roof. Prominent exterior features include a one-story wraparound porch (which is enclosed on the south elevation). A corner tower at the second story southeast corner is open, creating a small second story porch. The exterior walls are covered with German siding except for the rear shed wing (west elevation) and the enclosed portion of the porch (south elevation) which are covered with board-and-batten siding. The roof is covered with wood shingles. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash except for the rear wing and enclosed porch area, which are 4/4. The interior consists of two principal rooms on the first floor and three on the second floor. The interior walls and ceiling are clad in the original narrow beaded tongue-and-groove board paneling which has achieved a rich patina over the years. The Douglass House displays a high degree of integrity. A meticulous renovation in 1987 maintained a majority of the original interior and exterior fabric of the building.

The significance of the Douglass Summer House is derived from its relationship to the African-American resort community of Highland Beach. Located along the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, Highland Beach was established in 1893 by Major Charles Douglass, a Civil War veteran and son of Frederick Douglass, the famed African-American humanitarian, orator, and writer. Highland Beach became a summer gathering place for prominent African-Americans, particularly from Washington, D.C. Included among the early residents are Paul Lawrence Dunbar, the poet; and Robert Terrell, the first African-American municipal judge in Washington, D.C., and his wife, Mary Church Terrell, educator and civil libertarian. Frequent visitors to the resort include Booker T. Washington; Paul Robeson, the singer and actor; and Langston Hughes, the poet. With financial assistance from his father, Major Douglass laid out the community, naming the two principal streets for Reconstruction-era friends of his father. Tradition maintains that the impetus for establishing Highland Beach was a rebuff Major Douglass and his wife received from an all-white neighboring resort community. The Douglass Summer House was built for Frederick Douglass in 1894-1895. Douglass, however, did not live to see it completed. Tradition says the house was designed by Douglass himself with a second floor balcony to provide a view east towards the Eastern Shore where he was born. The Douglass Summer House is the oldest house remaining in Highland Beach. This house and the one erected for Major Douglass were the first structures built in the newly laid-out community. The Major Douglass house no longer stands.

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name DOUGLASS SUMMER HOUSE
other names/site number Twin Oaks AA-721

2. Location

street & number 3200 Wayman Avenue N/A ☐ not for publication
city, town Highland Beach N/A ☐ vicinity
state Marylandcode MD county Anne Arundel code 003 zip code 21403

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☒ private	☒ building(s)	1	0 buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district		sites
☐ public-State	☐ site		structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure		objects
	☐ object	1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 1/16/92

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

AA-721

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling	DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Queen Anne	foundation BRICK walls WOOD roof WOOD other CONCRETE

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Douglass Summer House, built in 1894-95, is located in the small community of Highland Beach, five miles south of Annapolis on the Chesapeake Bay. The Douglass House, situated at the corner of Wayman and Bay avenues, is one of the first built in Highland Beach which was established in 1893 by Douglass' son, Major Charles Douglass. Facing east, it enjoys a spectacular view of the Bay. The two and one-half story Queen Anne style frame dwelling measures 3 bays by 4 bays with a central entrance and has a hip roof. Prominent exterior features include a one-story wrap-around porch (which is enclosed on the south elevation). A corner tower at the second story southeast corner, is open, creating a small second story porch. The exterior walls are covered with German-siding except for the rear shed wing (west elevation) and the enclosed portion of the porch (south elevation) which are covered with board and batten siding. The roof is covered with wood shingles. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash except for the rear wing and enclosed porch area which are 4/4. The interior consists of two principal rooms on the first floor and three on the second floor. The interior walls and ceiling are clad in the original narrow beaded tongue and groove board paneling which has achieved a rich patina over the years. The Douglass House displays a high degree of integrity. A meticulous renovation in 1987 maintained a majority of the original interior and exterior fabric of the building.

[X] See continuation sheet No 1
For GENERAL DESCRIPTION

8. Statement of Significance

AA-721

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Ethnic Heritage: Black
Social History

Period of Significance
1894-1895

Significant Dates
1894-1895

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The significance of the Douglass Summer House is derived from its relationship to the African-American resort community of Highland Beach. Located along the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, Highland Beach was established in 1893 by Major Charles Douglass, a Civil War veteran and a son of Frederick Douglass, the famed African-American humanitarian, orator and writer. Highland Beach became a summer gathering place for prominent African-Americans, particularly from Washington, D.C. Included among the early residents are Paul Lawrence Dunbar, the poet; and Robert Terrell, the first African-American municipal judge in Washington, D.C. and his wife, Mary Church Terrell, educator and civil libertarian. Frequent visitors to the resort include Booker T. Washington; Paul Robeson, the singer and actor; and Langston Hughes, the poet. With financial assistance from his father, Major Douglass laid out the community naming the two principal streets for Reconstruction-era friends of his father. Tradition maintains that the impetus for establishing Highland Beach was a rebuff Major Douglass and his wife received from an all white neighboring resort community. The Douglass Summer House was built for Frederick Douglass in 1894-1895. Douglass, however, did not live to see it completed. Tradition says the house was designed by Douglass himself with a second floor balcony to provide a view east toward the Eastern Shore where he was born. The Douglass Summer House is the oldest house remaining in Highland Beach. This house and the one erected for Major Douglass were the first structures built in the newly laid-out community. The Major Douglass house no longer stands.

☒ See continuation sheet No. 3
For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

9. Major Bibliographical References

AA-721

Greene, Carroll, Jr. "Summertime - In the Highland Beach Tradition," American Visions: The Magazine of Afro-American Culture, (June 1986).

McFeely, William S. Frederick Douglass. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1991.

Anne Arundel County Land and Court Records. Annapolis, Maryland.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre
USGS Quad: Annapolis, MD

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	372830	4309840
B			
C			
D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies Block 1, Lot 1 in the town of Highland Beach. The lot is roughly 50' x 100' in size.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire town lot that has historically been associated with the property.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donna M. Ware
organization Anne Arundel County Planning & Zoning date May 1991
street & number P.O. Box 2700 telephone (410) 222-7441
city or town Annapolis state Maryland zip code 21404

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Douglass Summer House, built in 1894-95, is located in the small community of Highland Beach, five miles south of Annapolis on the Chesapeake Bay. The Douglass House is situated at the corner of Wayman and Bay avenues. Facing east, it enjoys a spectacular view of the Bay.

The Queen Anne style frame dwelling is two and one-half stories and has a hip roof. Prominent exterior features include a one-story wrap-around porch (which is enclosed on the south elevation). A corner tower at the second story southeast corner is open, creating a small second story porch.

The Douglass House rests on brick piers, and the porch on a ("rock-faced") decorated concrete-block pier foundation. Wooden lattice skirting is placed between the piers. The exterior walls are covered with German-siding except for the rear shed wing (west elevation) and the enclosed portion of the porch (south elevation) which are covered with board and batten siding. The roof is covered with wood shingles. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash except for the rear wing and enclosed porch area which are 4/4.

The house is three bays by four bays, with a central entrance on the principal facade (east elevation). The door consists of four glazed panes above two solid raised panels.

Inside, the house consists of two principal rooms on the first floor, (front and rear). The rear shed wing (an original porch) and the enclosed porch area on the south elevation accommodate small rooms which flank the main block.

The interior walls and ceiling treatment throughout the house consist of the original narrow beaded tongue and groove board paneling which has achieved a rich patina over the years.

Interior trim is very simple; plain board surrounds with mitered joints. The stair is located in the southwest corner of the front room. It has turned balusters and simple square newels with beveled edges and round finials.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

At the top of the stair on the second floor a door leads directly out onto the small open balcony where Frederick Douglass (had he lived to see the completion of the house) would have been able to gaze upon his native Eastern Shore where he had been born a slave.

The second floor consists of three rooms - the center room has recently been partitioned to accommodate a bath and closet and the rear (west) room has also been partitioned to include a bath.

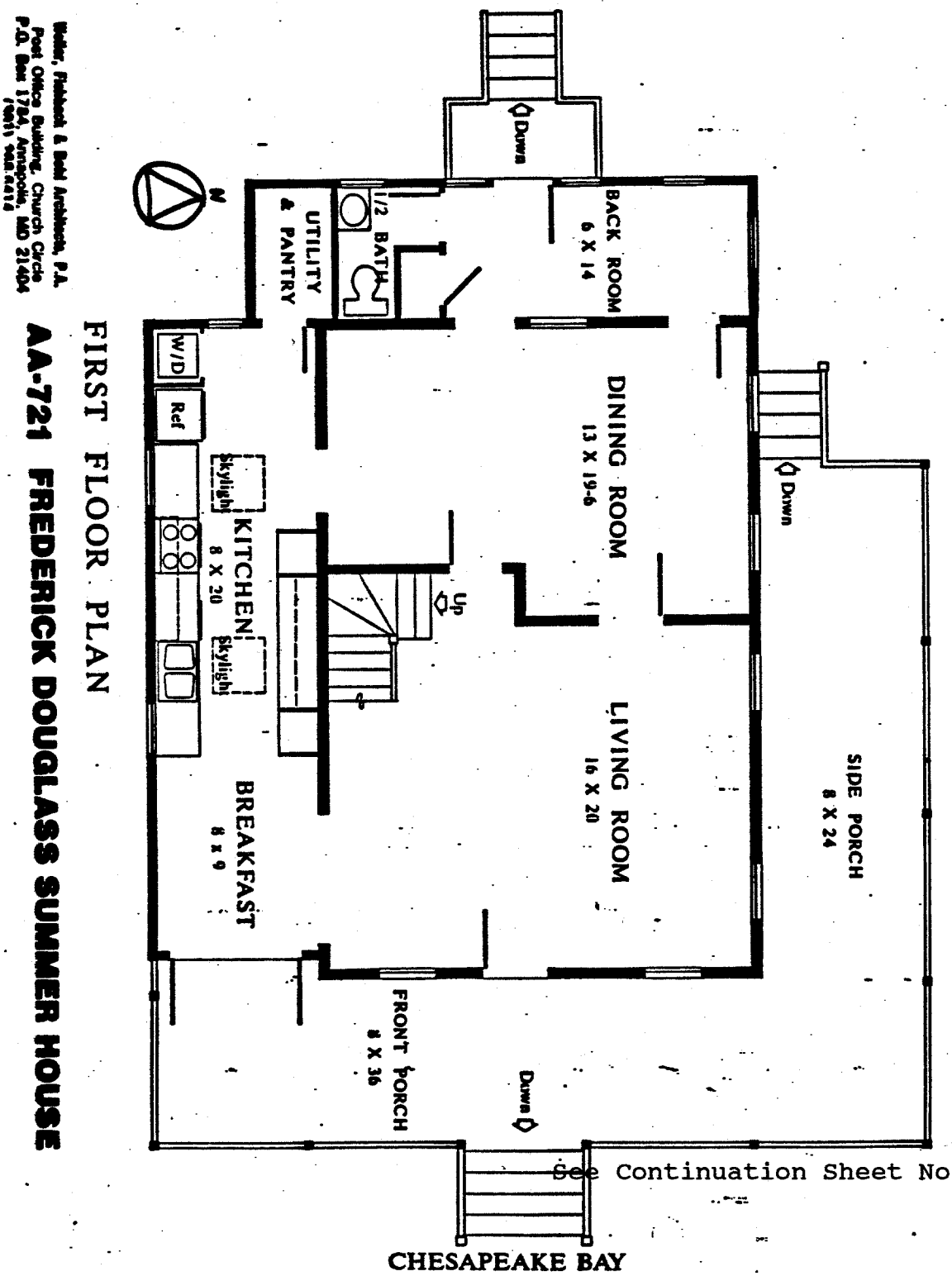
The 1987 renovation has beautifully maintained the original fabric and character of the Douglass cottage. Interior modifications have been minimal including the changes previously mentioned on the second floor. The attic, originally unfinished, was renovated for use as a bedroom. The enclosure of the porch on the first floor south elevation is an historic alteration. During the early 20th century the Douglass family enclosed and extended it for use as a kitchen, bathroom and storage room.

The siding, windows and doors are original. During the renovation, evidence of an original wood shingle roof was found under a later asphalt shingle roof. The roof was re-shingled to match the earlier roof. Evidence of the original exterior paint scheme was also discovered during renovation and utilized. (Buff colored exterior walls with dark green trim and maroon stained roof shingles.)

Several pieces of Douglass memorabilia have remained with the house, including an upright piano that belonged to Fannie Douglass (the wife of Joseph Douglass), a Mission oak dining table and buffet, a desk, and a photograph of Frederick Douglass inscribed "From Father to Son, taken in Boston, 1894."

The surrounding landscape had been left to deteriorate prior to ownership by the Bohls. Existing trees included oak and sweet gum. Some daylilies were growing on the property. The Bohl's cleared the grounds of overgrowth retaining the above mentioned plantings and added additional daylilies, blue hydrangea and crepe myrtle.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

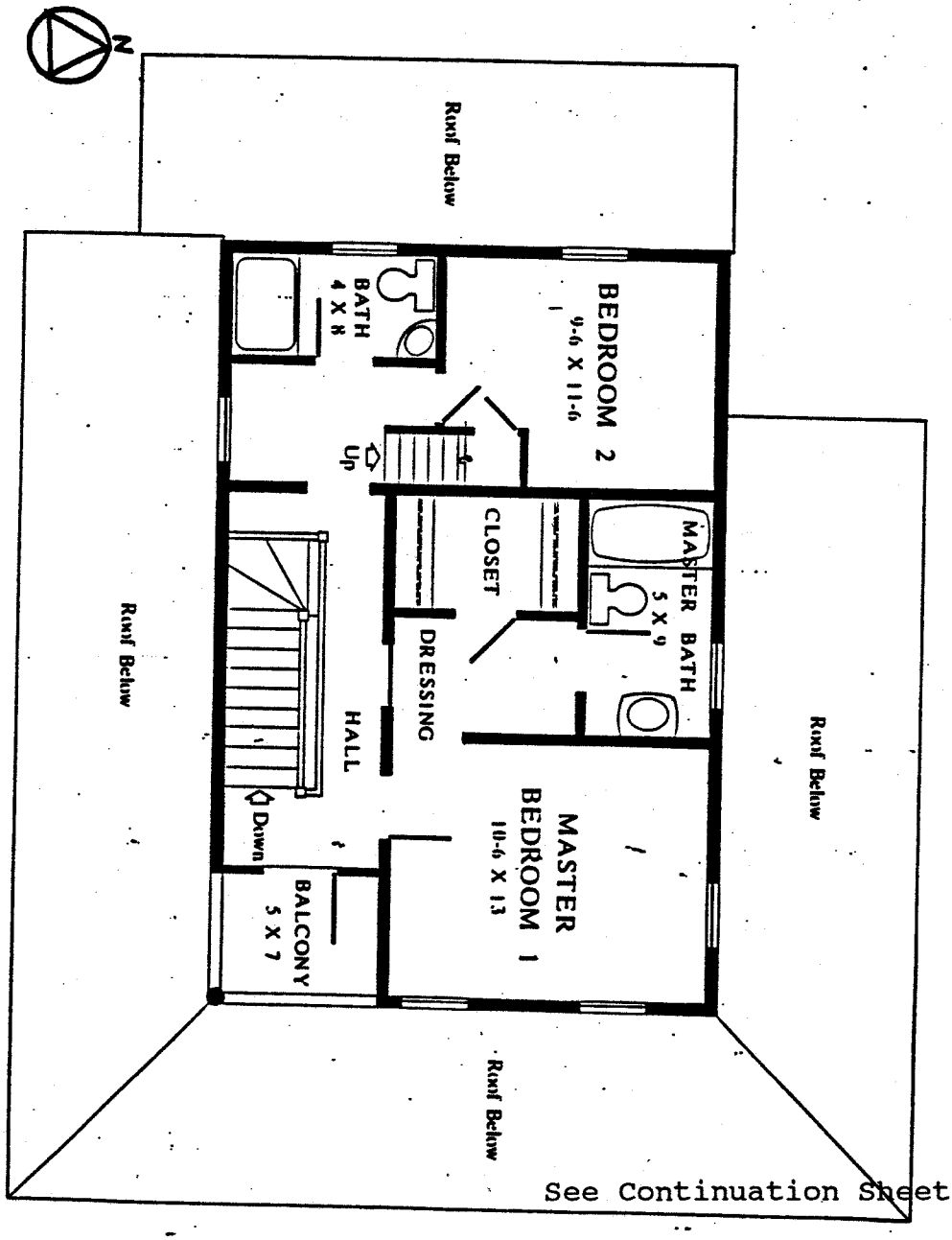


See Continuation Sheet No. 4

Weller, Fishbeck & Dodd Architects, P.A.
Post Office Building, Church Circle
P.O. Box 1784, Annapolis, MD 21404
(301) 268-8414

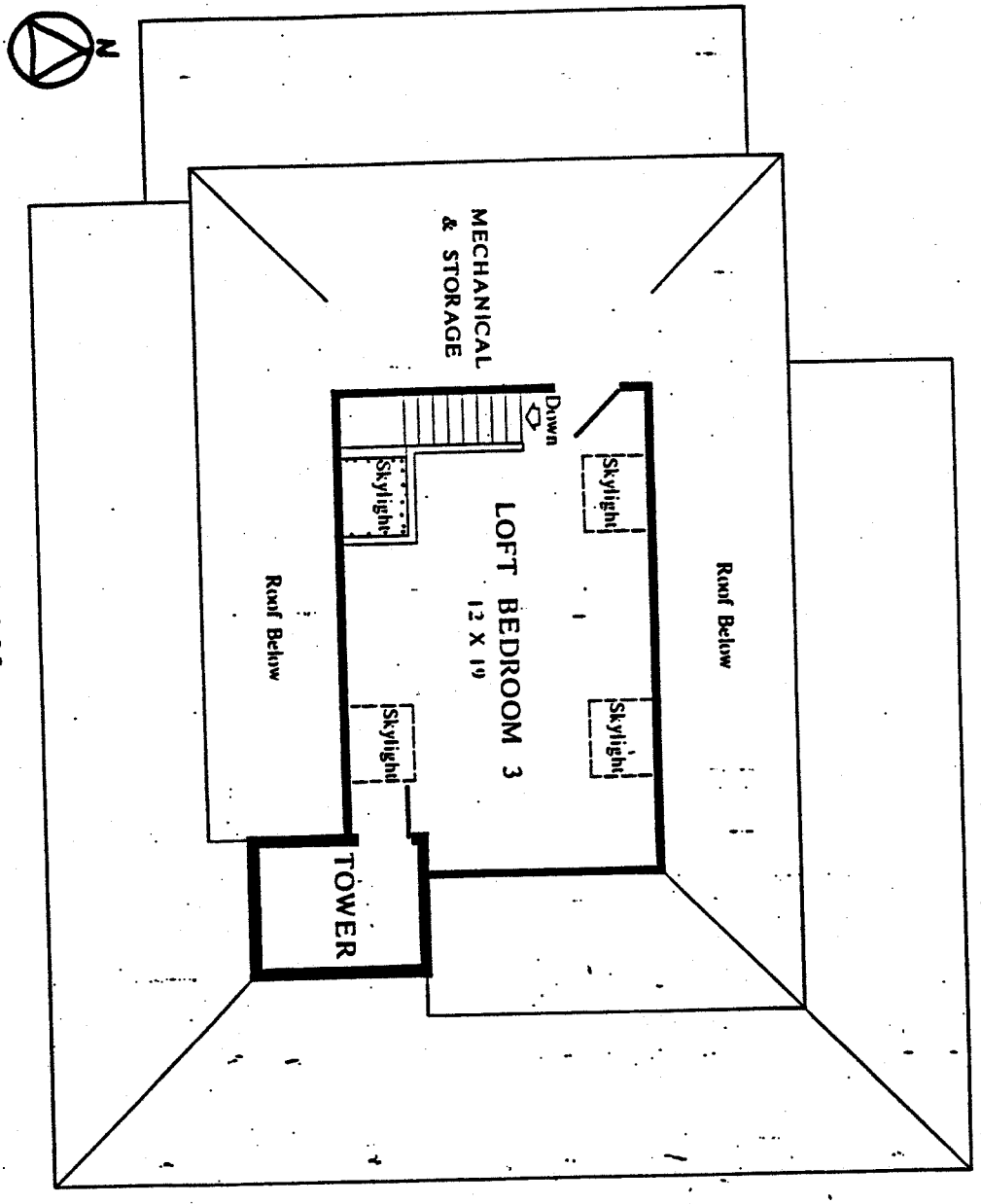
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

AA-721 FREDERICK DOUGLASS SUMMER HOUSE



See Continuation Sheet No. 5

Weller, Fishbeck & Bohl Architects, P.A.
Post Office Building, Church Circle
P.O. Box 1784, Annapolis, MD 21404
(301) 268 6414



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

AA-721 FREDERICK DOUGLASS SUMMER HOUSE

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme:

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function or Use: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Design Source: None

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

HISTORIC SETTING:

During the period of industrial/urban dominance in Maryland, which spanned the last quarter of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century, the development of resort communities evolved. Improved transportation routes, primarily railroads, provided linkage to mountain and seaside resorts. The growing working and middle class and the upper crust of society were enjoying leisure time in unprecedented numbers. Communities such as Bay Ridge, Sherwood Forest and Gibson Island, all in Anne Arundel County, were created for white visitors and seasonal residents. Due to racial discrimination policies, wealthy black-Americans sought counterparts to the white resorts. Within this context, Highland Beach was founded in 1893 and soon became "the" gathering place for wealthy and prominent black Americans.

Tradition maintains that Highland Beach was founded by Major Charles Douglass, the son of famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass, after he and his wife Laura were denied entrance to Bay Ridge, a white resort on the Chesapeake Bay just south of Annapolis. Major Douglass purchased 44 acres adjoining Bay Ridge and developed his own resort community for his family and friends. In 1893, he purchased 500 feet of beachfront between Oyster Creek and Black Walnut Cove from Daniel and Mary Brashears. Frederick Douglass assisted financially with his son's endeavor and purchased a lot in 1893.[1]

Streets were laid out. The longest street bears the name of Douglass. Other streets were named for reconstruction era friends of Frederick Douglass, namely Bruce Wayman and John Mercer Langston.

Major Douglass was the first to build a cottage at Highland Beach. Erected in 1894, the house was a large bungalow with a wrap-around porch. Unfortunately, it was demolished in the 1950s. Picnics were held in the grove of trees surrounding the house attended by guests including some of the outstanding black-Americans of the day.

Frederick Douglass, living at Cedar Hill in nearby Washington, D.C., was the second to construct a summer cottage for himself. His cottage is the subject of this nomination. Tradition maintains that he designed the house, specifically the second floor balcony

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

facing the Chesapeake Bay, "so that I as a free man could look across the Bay to the Eastern Shore where I was born a slave." However, Douglass did not live to see it completed; he died unexpectedly at Cedar Hill on February 20, 1895. The cottage was bequeathed to his grandson Joseph H. Douglass, the son of Major Douglass, however another of Frederick's sons, Lewis Douglass, and his family occupied the cottage until 1908. Joseph Douglass and his new wife, Fannie Howard Douglass, began their annual summer visits in that year, a tradition maintained by their daughter Nettie Douglass Morris until 1986 when it was sold to the present owners, Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Bohl.[2]

Highland Beach grew slowly at first. In addition to the two Douglass cottages, approximately ten were built by 1910, including a large 9-bedroom cottage for George T. Bowen, an ex-slave and affluent Baltimore caterer and one for Dr. John Francis, a prominent Washington, D.C. urologist. Both survive, as do approximately three others built before 1902. The real building boom occurred between 1910 and 1930. The majority of the thirty cottages identified by the Maryland Historical Trust in 1980 were constructed during those two decades. The majority are bungalows.[3] Like the Douglass family, the George T. Bowens welcomed guests into their large cottage. In the 1890s, the educated and professional class of black Americans was small and close-knit. Because of discrimination in the South and in some areas of the North, these families found their way to Highland Beach where they were housed by the Douglass and Bowen families. Mrs. Edna Bowen Newton, the daughter of George Bowen, remembered some of the visitors to their cottage, including Booker T. Washington, educator and founder of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama; Paul Robeson, singer and actor; and poets Langston Hughes and Paul Lawrence Dunbar. Mrs. Newton also recalled stories about the Civil War told by Lewis Douglass, another son of Frederick Douglass, and his work as a printer of his father's famous abolitionist newspaper, The North Star.[4]

In 1926, the Bowen cottage was sold to Mrs. Anazine Flagg who operated "Anazine's Tea Room." She was the daughter of Whitfield McKinley who was appointed collector of the Port of Georgetown by President Theodore Roosevelt.

Mrs. Flagg recollected that patrons came from New York, Boston, North Carolina, Philadelphia and Arkansas. In her words, "Everyone wanted to come to Highland Beach. It was known to

See Continuation Sheet No. 9

represent the best in Negro life." Paul Robeson, an world famous singer and actor, once visited Anazine's Tea Room and without pressure from other guests rose from his seat on the veranda and sang a spiritual which as Mrs. Flagg remembers, "reverberated out over the Chesapeake, and the waters of the bay stood still."[5]

Mrs. Flagg's father, Whitfield McKinley, sold a lot in Highland Beach to Paul Lawrence Dunbar, the famous poet. Mrs. Edna Bowen Newton recalls hearing Dunbar recite poetry on the beach one summer to residents gathered around a bonfire. Dunbar died in 1906 at the early age of 34.

In 1915, Dr. Mary Church Terrell, educator, civil libertarian and author of A Colored Woman in a White World, and her husband Robert Terrell, the first black-American municipal judge in Washington, D.C. (1910), built a cottage adjacent to Frederick Douglass' cottage, then occupied by Joseph and Fannie Douglass. One of their daughters, Mrs. Phyllis Terrell Langston made Highland Beach her permanent residence, serving as postmaster until her recent death.[6]

At the death of Major Douglass in 1921, the responsibility of maintaining the spirit and traditions of Highland Beach were passed to his son, Haley Douglass. The remaining lots in Highland Beach held by Charles Douglass were bequeathed to his sons Haley and Joseph. Haley Douglass emerged as the community leader.

In 1922, the residents incorporated the town. Highland Beach is the only incorporated jurisdiction in Anne Arundel County outside of Annapolis. Haley Douglass long served as a commissioner and mayor. Mrs. Anazine Flagg recalled that Haley Douglass "really loved the place and could have sold major portions to racketeers many times, but he didn't, and he died a poor man."[7]

Other important early residents were Dr. Johnny Washington, a dentist, artist and collector of Lincolniana and Dr. William Wells, an assistant professor of pathology at Howard University. They are representative of the summer residents at Highland Beach.

See Continuation Sheet No. 10

RESOURCE HISTORY:

The Douglass Summer House was built between 1894-1895 for Frederick Douglass the famed black humanitarian, orator and writer. It is one of the first two cottages built in Highland Beach, an exclusive resort for wealthy blacks established in 1893 by Douglass' son, Major Charles Douglass.

Tradition maintains that Frederick Douglass designed the house, specifically the second floor balcony facing the Chesapeake Bay, "so that I as a free man could look across the Bay to the Eastern Shore where I was born a slave." However, Douglass did not live to see it completed; he died unexpectedly in February 1895. Although bequeathed to his grandson, Joseph H. Douglass, the house was occupied for the first time in the summer of 1895 by Lewis Douglass, another son of Frederick Douglass. It remained in the Douglass family until it was sold in 1986 to the present owners, Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Bohl.

Frederick Douglass was born in 1817 as Frederick Bailey, a slave in Talbot County, Maryland. He fled to freedom, becoming a leader in the abolition of slavery and worldwide oppression. As editor of the abolitionist newspaper, The North Star, Douglass used the slogan: "Right is of no sex - Truth is of no color - God is the Father of All, and we are all Brethren." Abraham Lincoln described Douglass as "the most meritorious person I have ever seen." During the summer of 1863 Douglass was successful in convincing President Lincoln to enlist black men as soldiers in the Union Army. His own sons, Lewis and Charles, joined the newly formed 54th Massachusetts Colored Regiment (the topic of the film Glory). His other son, Frederick, Jr., recruited black men in the Mississippi River Valley. Some 186,000 black Americans served in the Grand Army of the Republic, including six regiments from Maryland.[8]

At his death in 1895, Douglass' cottage at Highland Beach was bequeathed to his grandson, Joseph H. Douglass. However, Frederick's son, Lewis Douglass, and his family occupied the house at first until 1908 when Joseph and his wife Fannie Douglass began summering there. Mrs. Edna Bowen Newton, who spent summers at her father's cottage nearby on Douglass Avenue, recalled hearing Lewis Douglass relate stories of the Civil War and of his days as a printer for his father's newspaper The North Star.

See Continuation Sheet No. 11

The tenure of Joseph and Fannie Douglass at the Douglass Summer House began after their marriage in 1906. Although it has not been documented, it is assumed that Joseph and Fannie maintained the tradition of his father, and other residents, of opening his house to visitors at Highland Beach. Joseph Douglass was a concert violinist, travelling and performing extensively. Frederick Douglass had bequeathed his own violin to Joseph. Fannie Howard Douglass was an Atlanta belle and music teacher when she met her husband. Fannie became a well-known and loved resident of Highland Beach serving as postmaster for many years. She out-lived Joseph by some 50 years and at her death at the age of 101, the summer house passed to their daughter Nettie Douglass Morris. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Bohl, acquired the property in 1986.

Several pieces of Douglass family memorabilia have remained with the house, including an upright piano that belonged to Fannie Douglass, a Mission Oak dining table and buffet, a desk, and a photograph of Frederick Douglass inscribed "From Father to Son, taken in Boston, 1894."

Resource Analysis:

Built in 1894-1895 for Frederick Douglass, The Douglass Summer House is significant for its association with the unique development of Highland Beach, an exclusive black resort community founded by Frederick Douglass' son, Major Charles Douglass. With the financial backing of Frederick Douglass, Major Douglass laid out the town naming the streets for prominent Reconstruction-era friends of his father such as Langston and Wayman avenues. Early residents and regular visitors included such notables as Booker T. Washington, Paul Robeson, and Paul Lawrence Dunbar. The first two cottages built were those for Major Douglass in 1894 and Frederick Douglass in 1894-1895. Unfortunately, the Major Douglass house is no longer standing. The cottage built for Frederick Douglass is the property being nominated. Although Frederick Douglass did not live to see the cottage completed, its significance is in no way diminished. As founders and long-time residents of Highland Beach, the Douglass family has left an indelible mark on the region.

See Continuation Sheet No. 12

The Douglass Summer House is symbolically and visually the cornerstone of Highland Beach. It was one of the first four cottages to be built, and architecturally it is one of the most ornate. The majority of cottages are bungalows. Two of the more significant cottages are the Dr. "Johnny" Washington Cottage which displays some Queen Anne style characteristics and the Bowen Cottage, a two-story frame cross-gable cottage.

The survival of the Douglass Summer House (with considerable architectural integrity) as one of the earliest cottages at Highland Beach, its association with the Douglass family, and its integral relationship to Highland Beach, a unique community in American cultural history, make the Douglas Summer House eminently qualified for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

See Continuation Sheet No. 13

1. Carroll Greene Jr., "Summertime - In the Highland Beach Tradition," American Visions: The Magazine of Afro-American Culture, (June 1986), p. 46.

2. Greene, "Summertime," p. 46-48; American Reformers, ed. Alden Whitman, (New York: The H.W. Wilson Co., 1985) p. 254; and William S. McFeely, Frederick Douglass, (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1991) p. 385.

3. Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Anne Arundel County (AA-812-AA-842), Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville.

4. Greene, "Summertime," p. 48.

5. Ibid.

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

8. American Reformers, p. 253.

CAPSULE SUMMARY

Twin Oaks
3200 Wayman Avenue
Highland Beach, Maryland

c. 1895

Private access

Twin Oaks is a landmark house located in the historically black town of Highland Beach, Maryland. It was designed to be the summer home of Frederick Douglass and family. It is a two storey, frame dwelling with an enclosed porch on three views. The second storey exhibits a small tower which overlooks the Chesapeake Bay. The house is a critical piece of architecture in this settlement because it contributes to both the social organization of space as well as the material conceptualization of space as exhibited by prominent black people of this era.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AA-721

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
TWIN OAKS

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
3200 Wayman Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Highland Beach ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Anne Arundel

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
X STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Nellie Morris
Fannie H. Douglass
Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
1806 11th Street NW

CITY, TOWN
Washington, DC ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
20012

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
R 57 15 0012

Liber #: 3107
Folio #: 081

STREET & NUMBER
2/411 034770600

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

AA-721

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X_ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Twin Oaks is a two storey, frame cottage with an enclosed porch encircling three views. The house exhibits some Eastern stick characteristics such as a tower on the eastern view and the decorative pattern of diagonal boards on the rail of the large porch. The cottage is finished with bevel siding and was completed as one unit in 1895.

Twin Oaks is located in Highland Beach, Maryland on the block which is bounded by Bay Avenue on the north, Wayman Avenue towards the east, Douglass Avenue on the south and Langston Avenue towards the west. The eastern entrance to the house faces the Chesapeake Bay and the proximity of the site to the beach makes this lot, one of the most desirable locations in the development. The lot is partially cleared although large trees rest close to the house on the northern side. The beach front of sand and water complement the exterior view of the cottage and typify the topography of this lot.

Twin Oaks is constructed on a stone pier foundation which is camouflaged by a lattice screen that surrounds the house. The principal entrance faces east towards the Chesapeake Bay. The facade of this view is three bays wide and the first storey is defined by a nine bay enclosed, screened, porch. A large (six-foot) window which is double hung with two lights over two lights is symmetrically located on this facade. A series of louvered walls have been placed on the south eastern corner of the porch and extend along the south side towards the back of the house. This storage area was added after the original house was completed.

The form of the second storey of the house is defined by a tower with a pyramidal roof which extends above the roof of the main structure. The tower is accessible from the second floor and is located at the top of the staircase. The tower is enclosed with screening on two sides. The windows on the second storey are double hung with 2/2 lights.

The western or rear view of Twin Oaks is also defined by a porch. However, this porch is not enclosed. It is three bays wide and is covered with a shed roof supported by nondescript wooden posts. The window on the first storey is asymmetrically placed on the facade. A board and batten wall encloses the contiguous porch on the western view. A shed roof is also exhibited in this storage area and a door and four paned window have been constructed here.

The windows on the second storey are also double hung with 2/2 lights.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

AA-721

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	X COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1000-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	X AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(Please see "Highland Beach Settlement" survey form)

Highland Beach, Maryland is a historic black town that was founded by the son of Frederick Douglass. The town was conceived by Haley R. Douglass in the late nineteenth century to be a resort community for prominent blacks. Highland Beach is a unique existing reminder of town planning and architectural history as it relates to vernacular and high style design as exhibited by black people. Most of the architecture in Highland Beach is located on the original sites and building expansions were performed within a ten to fifteen year time frame. This provides us with a concise history of design, space planning, and architecture in a homogeneous, extant community.

All of the cottages that were constructed prior to 1930 are important elements related to town planning and design. It is important that these houses retain their originality in terms of plan design, lot orientation, interior decoration, and architectural aesthetics in order to preserve the concept of space and the dynamics of community development in this historic black town.

Twin Oaks is one of the first three houses constructed in Highland Beach. It is particularly significant because it was designed for Frederick Douglass according to specifications detailed by he and his son. The house is a focal point in the community both socially and architecturally. The quality of construction and the design aesthetic were conceptually replicated in the development of the town until quite recently. It is imperative that this house be preserved as an exhibit that is critical to the documentation of African American as material culture.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

AA-721

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see "Highland Beach Settlement" sheet

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block I lot I with dwelling previously the Frederick Douglass home, the same being on the corner of Bay Avenue and Wayman Avenue. With the right and title by the Beach front beginning from Wayman Avenue, a width of 50 ft. extending to the shores of the Chesapeake Bay.

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	
Barbara Collins Turner	April, 1982
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Center for Built Environment Studies	
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
Morgan State University	
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Baltimore, Maryland	

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

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

PS-1108

Fannie N. Douglass
3200 Wayman Ave 1(1)

AA-721

Joseph H. Douglass

TO 11/12/28 FSR 42 500

Fannie N. Douglass

To 7/21/78 3107 081

Fannie N. Douglass & Nettie Douglass Morris

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0207215604
AA-721

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Frederick Douglass Summer Home

AND/OR COMMON

"Twin Oaks"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

201 Wayman Avenue

CITY, TOWN — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Highland Beach — VICINITY OF

STATE — COUNTY

Maryland — Anne Arundel

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Joseph Douglass — Telephone #: 667-2675

STREET & NUMBER

1806-11th Street, NW

CITY, TOWN — STATE, zip code

Washington — VICINITY OF — D.C. 20001

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: SH 49
Folio #: 85

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Anne Arundel County Land Records

STREET & NUMBER

Church Circle

CITY, TOWN — STATE

Annapolis — Maryland 21401

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN — STATE

AA-721

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Late 19th century two story clapboard summer cottage with screened porch. The unusual "tower" is obviously a Victorian-inspired feature. The building faces the Chesapeake Bay.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

AA-721

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION	
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The land upon which "Twin Oaks" is situated was purchased by Frederick Douglass on November 5, 1894 (Liber SH 49, Folio 85 Anne Arundel County) from his son, Charles H. Douglass, founder of Highland Beach, the pioneer black summer colony.

According to Mrs. Joseph H. Douglass, her father-in-law, Frederick Douglass, had designed the small second floor screened porch in the "tower" so that "I could as a free man look across the bay toward the Eastern Shore ere I was born a slave".

It was, heretofore, believed that Douglass had actually spent his summers in this cottage. Unfortunately, Frederick Douglass died in 1895, before construction of the house was completed. He left the property to his grandson, Joseph H. Douglass, whose widow, Mrs. Fannie H. Douglass, still owns and uses the property.

Frederick Douglass did visit the Highland Beach site on a number of occasions before his death, February 20, 1895, in Washington, D.C.

Frederick Douglass (1817-1895) was the pre-eminent black American of the 19th century, who was described by President Abraham Lincoln as "the most meritorious man I ever met". Douglass' fame was based on his leadership as an abolitionist, editor and civil libertarian. Born a slave in Talbot County, Maryland, he became adviser to presidents and the U.S. Minister to Haiti.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

AA-721

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Rebuff that Inspired a Town", a research article by Carroll Greene, Jr. Maryland Magazine, Summer, 1975

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carroll Greene, Jr., Director, Special Projects — May 28, 1976

ORGANIZATION — DATE

Maryland Commission on Afro-American and Indian History and Culture

STREET & NUMBER — TELEPHONE

20 Dean Street — 267-5955

CITY OR TOWN — STATE

Annapolis — Maryland 21401

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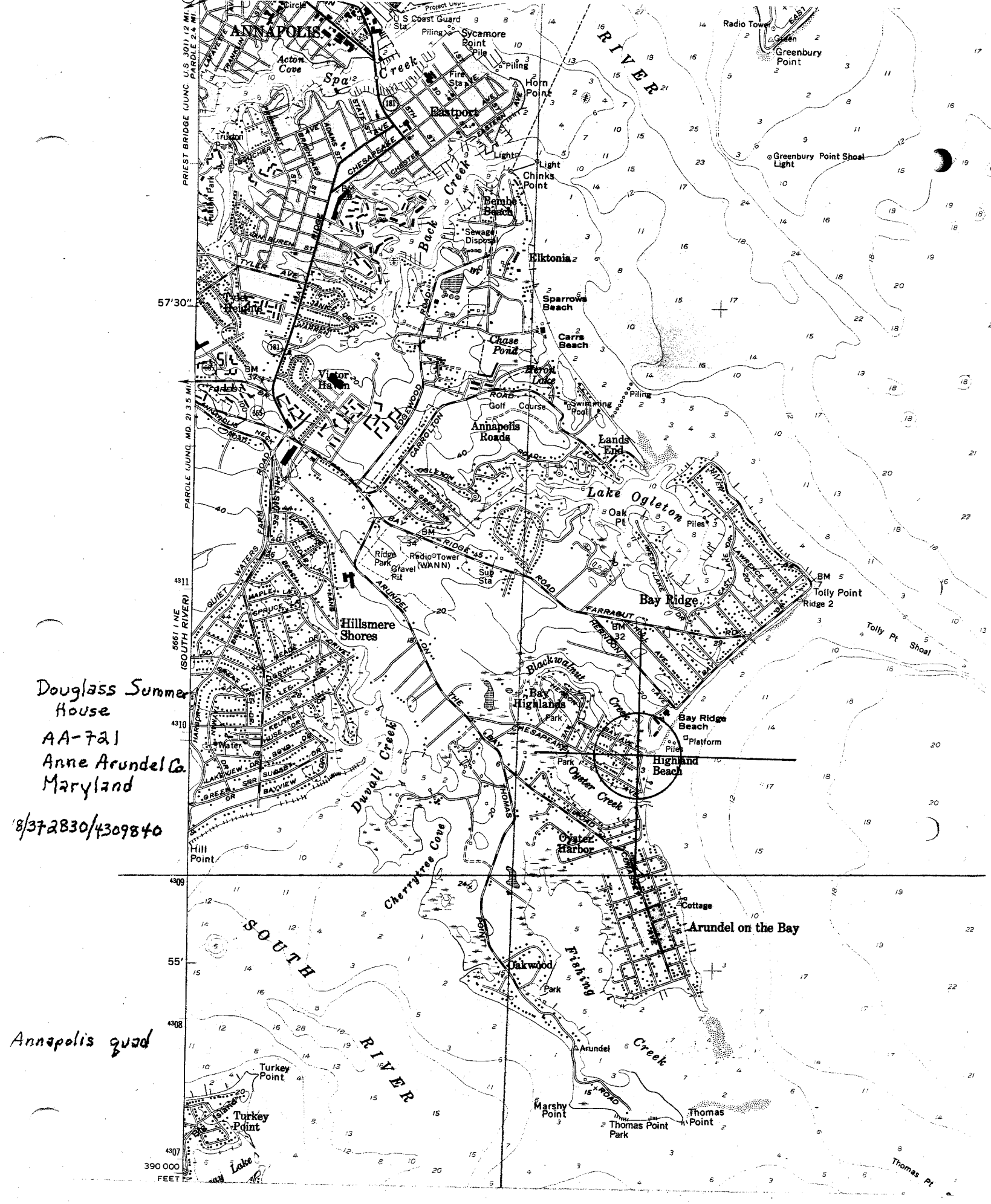
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

AA-721 Twin Oaks
3200 Wayman Avenue
Highland Beach Maryland



Douglass Summer House
AA-721
Anne Arundel Co.
Maryland

18/372830/4309840

Annapolis quad

AA-721

Frederick Douglass Summer House AA-721
Anne Arundel County, MD
Photo: Charles H. Bohl, A.I.A.
Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

November 1990
East Elevation
1/11

Frederick Douglass Summer House AA-721
Anne Arundel Co. MD
Photo: Charles H Bohl, A.I.A.
Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

November 1990
East Elevation
2/11

AA-721

Frederick Douglass Summer House AA-721
Anne Arundel Co., MD
Photo: Charles H. Bohl, A.I.A
Neg. Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

November 1990
North elevation (side) and East
elevation (facade)
3/11

Frederick Douglass Summer House AA-721
Anne Arundel Co., MD
Photo: Charles H. Bohl, A.I.A.
Neg Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

November 1990
West elevation (rear)
4/11

AA-721

Frederick Douglass Summer House AA-721
Anne Arundel Co. MD.
Photo: Charles H. Bohl, A.I.A.
Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
November 1990
Interior: First floor, front room (east room)
facing southwest

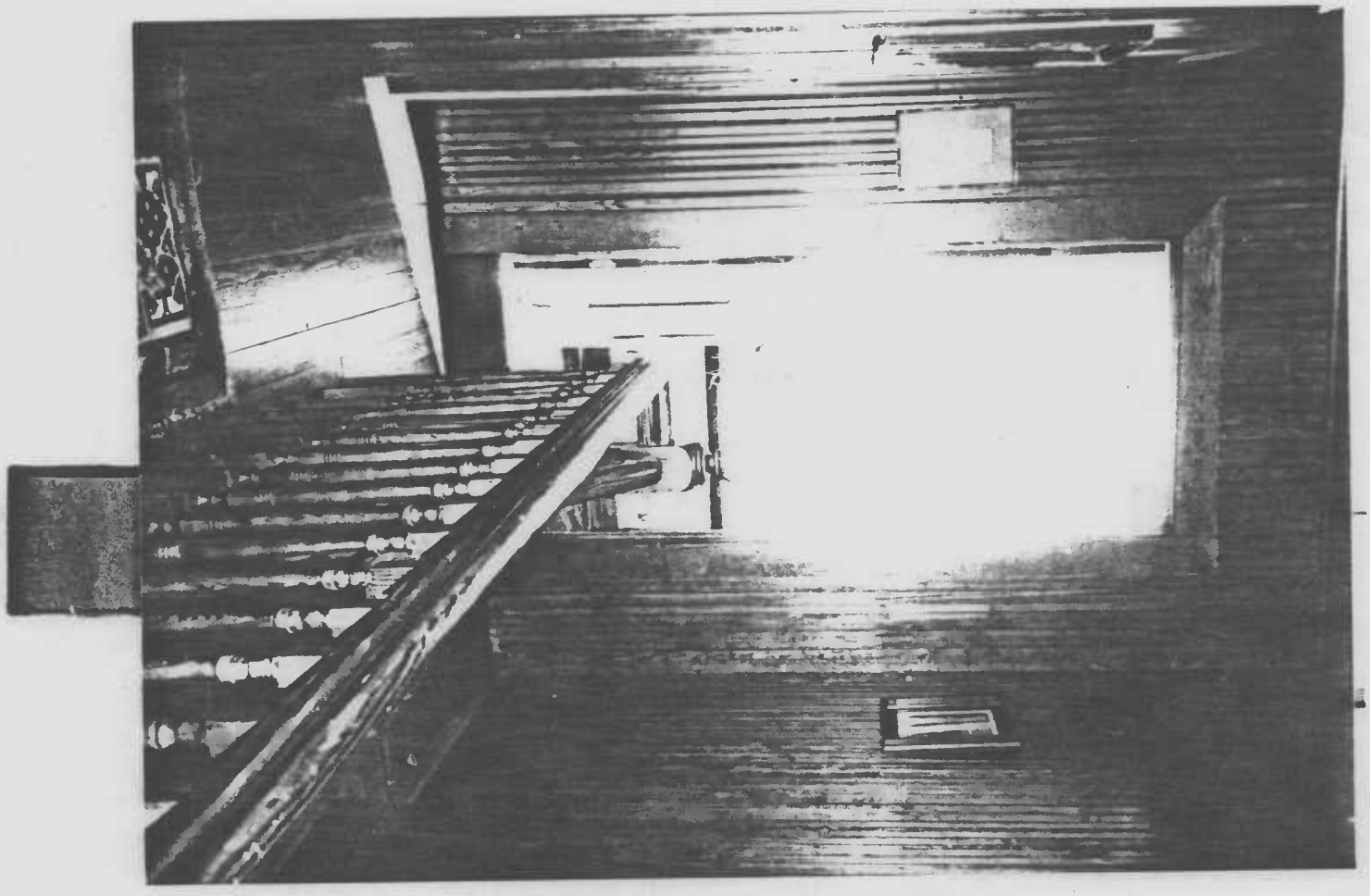
5/11

Frederick Douglass Summer House AA-721
Anne Arundel Co., MD
Photo: Charles H. Bohl, A.I.A.
Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

November 1990
Interior: First floor, front room (east room)
facing northeast

6/11

AA-721



Frederick Douglass Summer House AA-721
Anne Arundel County, MD
Photo: Charles H. Bohl A.I.A.
Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

November 1990
Interior: First floor, kitchen, looking east

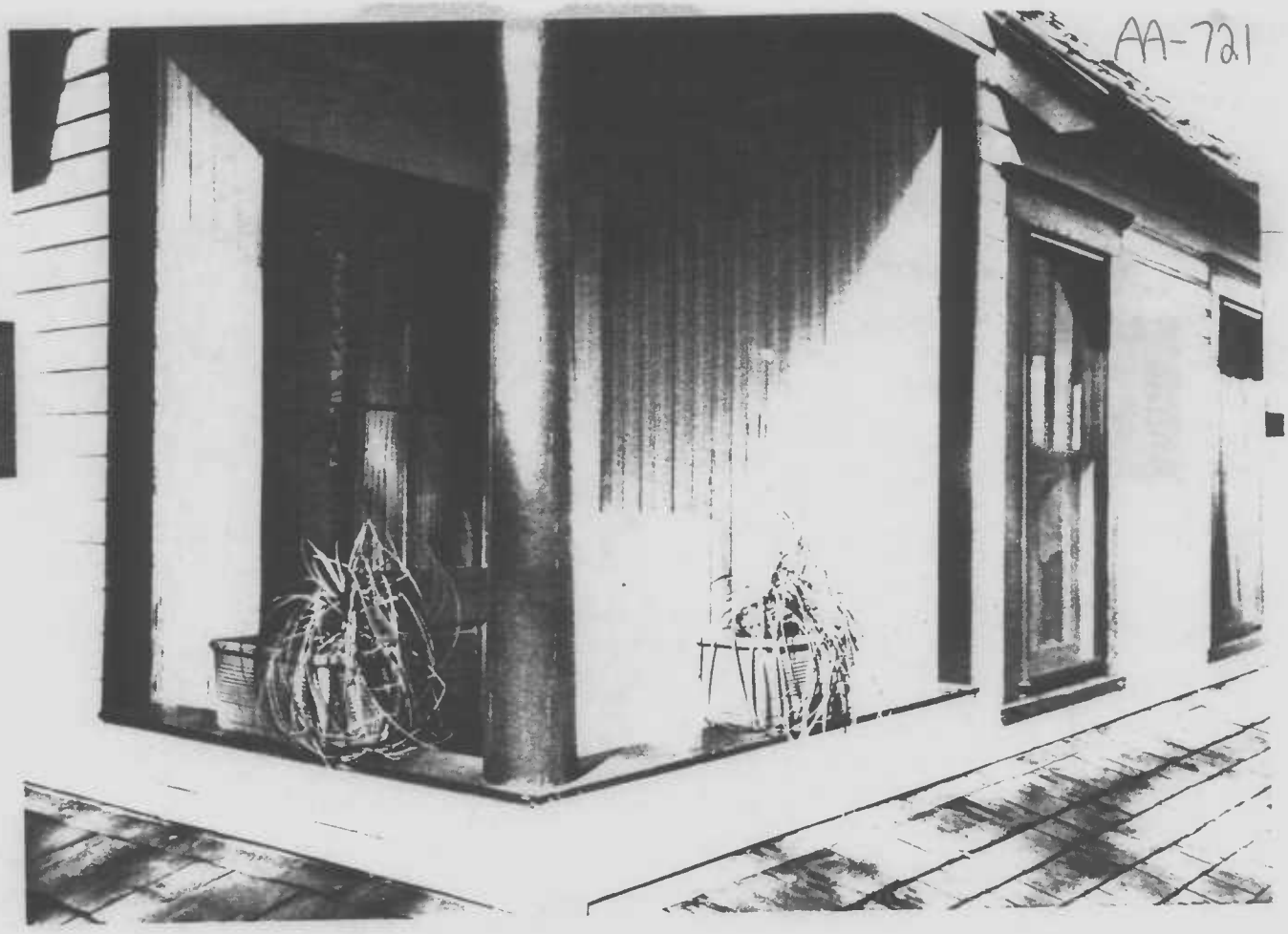
7/11

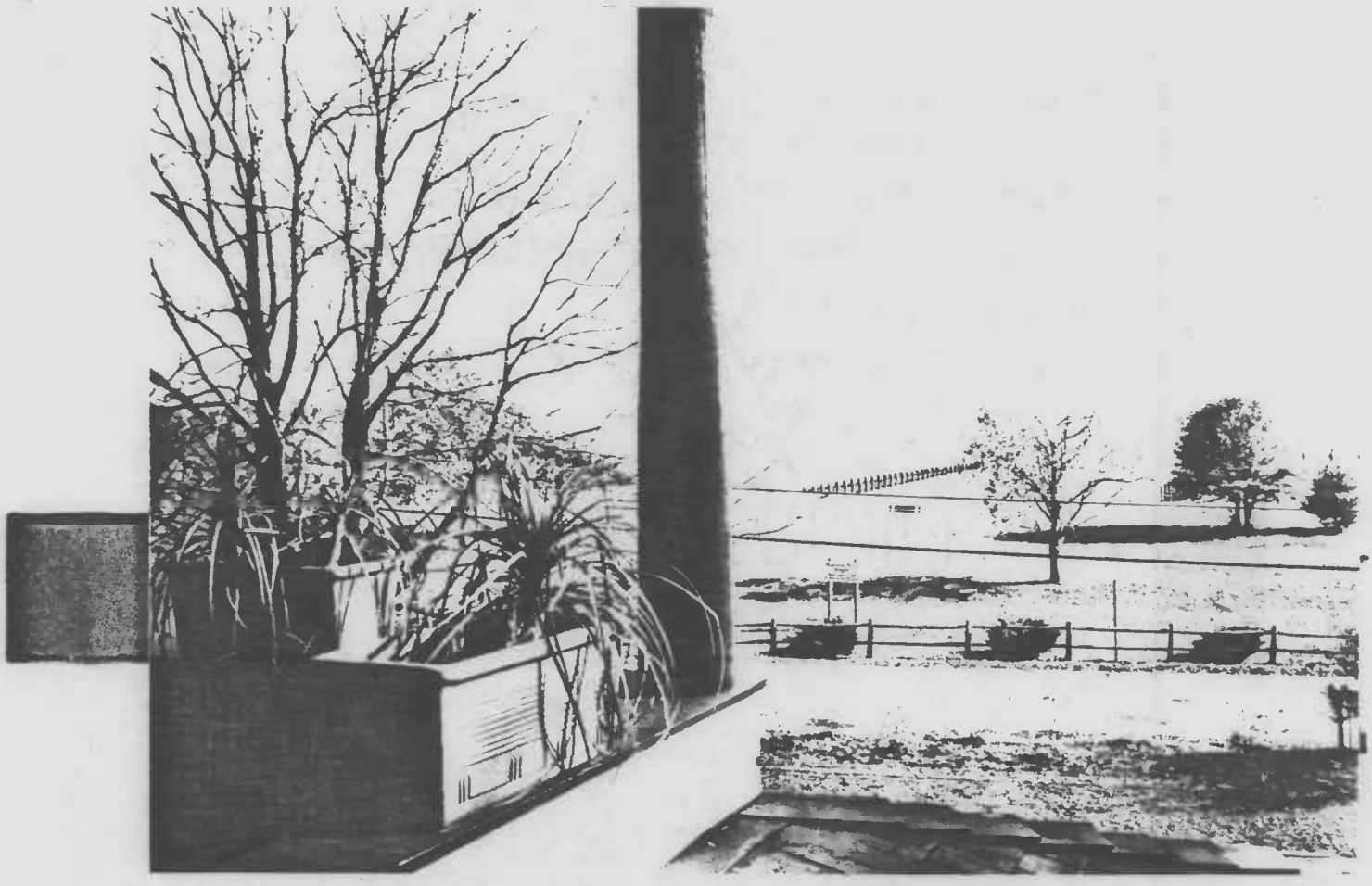
Frederick Douglass Summer House AA-721
Anne Arundel Co., MD
Photo: Charles H. Bohl, A.I.A.
Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

November 1990
Interior: second floor, top of stair, facing east

8/11

AA-721





Frederick Douglass Summer House AA-721
Anne Arundel Co., MD
Photo: Charles H. Bohl, A.I.A.
Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
November 1990
Second story balcony, east elevation
9/11

Frederick Douglass Summer House, AA-721
Anne Arundel Co., MD
Photo: Charles H. Bohl, A.I.A.
Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
November 1990
View from second floor balcony, looking east
10/11

AA-721

Frederick Douglass Summer House AA-721
Anne Arundel Co., MD
Photo: Charles H. Bohl, A.I.A.
Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
November 1990
Northeast elev. porch, looking east
11/11

DOUGLASS SUMMER HOUSE 1894

Frederick Douglass Summer House AA-721
Anne Arundel Co., MD.
Photo: Charles H. Bohl, A.I.A.
Neg. Loc.: Charles H. Bohl, A.I.A.
1990
East elev.

124-44

Weller, Fishback & Bohl Architects, P.A.
Post Office Building, Church Circle
P.O. Box 1784, Annapolis, MD 21404
(301) 268-6414

Frederick Douglass Summer Home A.A.

AA-721

Photo by
Ron Houghton

Frederick Douglass home
Highland Beach

Frederick Douglass Summer Home A.A.

AA-721

WEST

1875 - Frederick Douglass built
Joseph Douglass - grandson [illegible]
Nettie Douglass - wife of Douglass son -
Nettie Douglass Moses

AA-721 Twin Oaks
3200 Waymand Avenue
Highland Beaah, Maryland
North East View
Fern Eisner, Photographer
March, 1982

AA-721 Twin Oaks
3200 Wayman Avenue
Highland Beach, Maryland Eastern View
Fern Eisner, Photographer
March 1982

AA-721 Twin Oaks
3200 Wayman Avenue
Highland Beach, Maryland
Western view
Fern Eisner, Photographer
March 1982