

Capsule Summary

Shief House
1301 Douglass Avenue
Highland Beach, Maryland

c. 1925

Private access

The Shief House is a summer cottage located in the incorporated private, community of Highland Beach. It is a large, two and one half storey structure built for a prominent black family. It is a fine example of the architectural preferences of descendants of people who were influenced by slavery and an African and European dialectic.

The house is a substantial element in the design of the Highland Beach resort community and exists as a preamble or harbinger of the quality of design in the rest of the community. It serves significantly as a socio-spatial element in the town and its position at the entrance to the community complements the unconscious design of the town.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AA 820

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Shief House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1301 Douglass Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Highland Beach

--- VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Annapolis

COUNTY

Anne Arundel

STATE

Maryland

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

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

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

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

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Jennie B. Shief

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

1408 Hopkins St. NW

CITY, TOWN

Washington, DC

--- VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

20036

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 0825

Folio #: 518

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Anne Arundel County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

---FEDERAL ---STATE ---COUNTY ---LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AA-820

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Shief Cottage is a large gambrel roof structure standing two and one-half storeys. It has recessed dormers on the second storey gable end and an exposed chimney. The roof over the porch is supported by Tuscon columns. The first floor is encircled with a screened porch. The cottage is quite imposing as one enters Highland Beach and may be one of the land mark structures in the settlement.

The frame house was constructed in the first quarter of the twentieth century and the New England gambrel roof design is repeated on the small storage building in the rear of the lot.

The Shief Cottage is located at the intersection of Douglass Avenue and Walnut Avenue in Highland Beach. Its site is the southwest corner of the intersection and borders the corporate limits of the town separating the settlement from Venice Beach. Lying approximately ten miles south of Annapolis, the site is also surrounded by Oyster Creek in the south, the Chesapeake Bay towards the eastern extremity and Black Walnut Creek towards the northeast. The topography slopes towards the creeks and the Chesapeake Bay and it has dense vegetation on both the developed and undeveloped lots.

This two and a half storey cottage is a dwelling with a rectangular plan. The low stone foundation is composed uncoursed fieldstone on rubble. The north elevation faces Douglass Avenue. The principal facade is three bays wide and is composed of beveled, wood siding. The enclosed porch which compliments this view is constructed of a twelve bay screened facade supported by wood posts. The three bay entrance porch is one storey in height. The Tuscon order columns support the shed roof which extends the length of the porch.

On the second storey of the north elevation, three dormers are recessed into the curved side of the roof. One central dormer is three bays wide and is shielded by a hip roof. Symmetrically balancing the central dormer are two single bay, dormers with hipped roofs. The shingle siding on the dormers, the curve of the gambrel roof and the hip roofs is a diamond shaped imbricated pattern. The windows are sash type six lights over a single pane with white, wooden surrounds.

The east elevation is bordered by an eight bay screened porch although the principal facade is only two bays wide. This view exhibits an outside end, block chimney. The chimney is constructed of a red brick with a running band. The beveled wood siding is exposed on the first, second, and half storey. Windows are symmetrically situated, flanking the narrow chimney.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

AA-820

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES C. 1935 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(see "Highland Beach Settlement")

The actual date of the construction of the shief house is not known. Many of the houses in Highland Beach were constructed by the owners and their children over several years. The Anne Arundel County Building Permits Division does not have record of improvements to real estate that were done in this part of the county prior to 1963.

The Shief property chains back to the Will of Charles R. Douglass and is one of the properties that was owned by Haley G. Douglass. This cottage is one of several properties that were originally designed by prominent African-Americans in the community. It's primary significance rests within its value as a structure that is located in the plan of the town of Highland Beach. Structurally it is a functional example of high-style twentieth century architecture and symbolizes an expression of prominence and power in an era of Jim Crow legislation segregationist policy and black self-consciousness.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see Highland Beach Settlement

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 24 & 25 Block 5
Highland Beach

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

Morgan State University

DATE

301-444-3225

STREET & NUMBER

Center for Built Environment Studies

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore, Maryland

STATE

21239

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

Jennie B Shief
1301 Douglas

24+25 (5)

AA-820

Charles R. Douglass

To (WILL) 1920

Haley G. Douglass & Evelyn (Wife)

To (Deed) 6/4/26 WMB 32 215

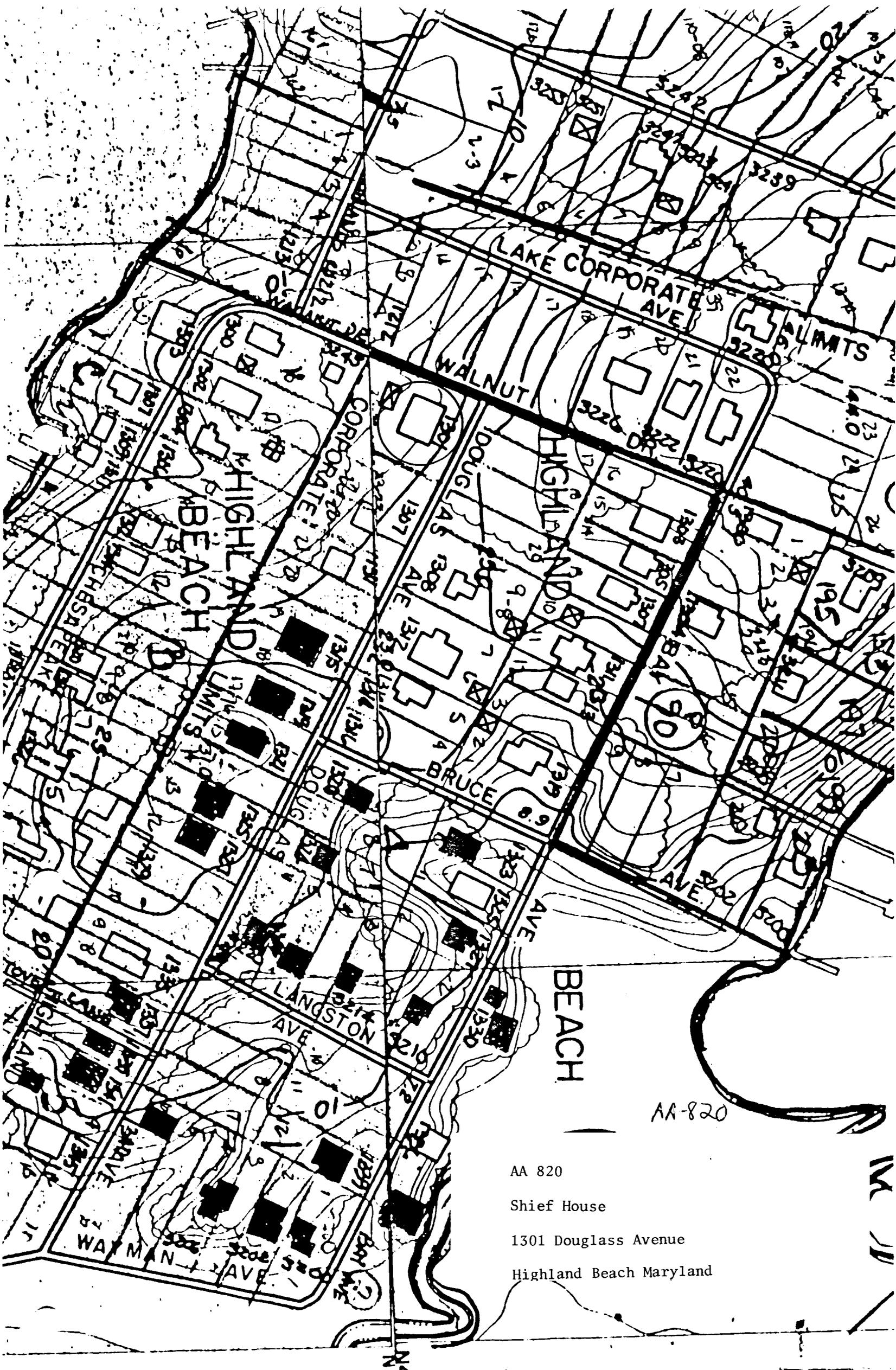
Mary E. Williams (Scott)

To (WILL) 3/9/43

George A. Scott

To (Deed) 4/12/54 L 0825 518

Ambrose Shief & Jennie (Wife)



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AA 820 Shief House
1301 Douglass Avenue
Highland Beach, Maryland
General View
Fern Eisner, Photographer
March, 1982