AA-983 Circa 1870; addition, 1930s

Ballman/Gischel House
Brooklyn Park
Private

The Ballman/Gischel House, built circa 1870, is a two-story central-passage plan brick structure with a two-story brick rear ell. The walls are laid in 7:1 common bond brick and feature a corbeled brick cornice. The main block has a hip roof with two interior brick chimneys flanking the central passage. The rear ell has a gable roof with an interior gable end chimney on the south elevation and an exterior chimney on the east elevation. A two-story, flat roofed wing fills the southwest corner of the intersection of the main block and rear ell. It is a later addition, (circa 1930). The brick walls are laid in Flemish bond and also feature a corbeled brick cornice. This addition contains a prominent entrance on the west elevation, indicating a shift of the principal entrance from the facade (north elevation) of the main block.

The significance of the Ballman/Gischel House is two-fold: architectural and historical. Architecturally, it represents a finely-crafted brick Victorian Vernacular house with the influence of the Colonial Revival movement dramatically displayed in the addition of a circa 1930s Flemish bond brick entrance wing. A possible builder of the house may have been William G. Gischel, a later occupant and builder of several fine brick homes in the area during the same time period (1860-1890). Historically, the house is one of the few, if not the only building that survives from the earliest days of Brooklyn. Many of the mid- to late-19th century houses built by enterprising businessmen and citizens have long since disappeared with the massive expansion of Baltimore southward in the early 20th century and during and after World War II. The Ballman/Gischel House is a rare survivor of the early history of the northernmost tip of Anne Arundel County.

Survey No. AA-983

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Demolished, 1997
See vertical file

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Ballman / Gischel House, site

2. Location

street & number 5601 Ballman Ave. ___ not for publication

city, town Brooklyn Park ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	X 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
	___ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Georgia O. Clift

street & number ~~Rt. 5, Box 171~~ 8213 Town Walk Dr. telephone no.:

city, town ~~Harbeson~~ Hamden state and zip code Connecticut 06518 ~~Delaware 19951~~

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse liber 3828

street & number Church Circle folio 97

city, town Annapolis state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AA-983

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_x_ original site
_x_ good	___ ruins	_x_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

See attached.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-983

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	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	X other (specify) local history
		___ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B __C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state __local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See attached.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-983

"A History of Brooklyn-Curtis Bay," 1976.

Anne Arundel Co. Land Records: Liber FAM 134, folio 366; FSR 103, f. 99 and 101; SH 34, f. 462; NHG 8, f. 155 and 157; NHG 9, f. 273 and 544; NHG 12, f. 19; SH 1, f. 216 and 399 (see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10-1/4 acres

Quadrangle name Curtis Bay **Quadrangle scale** 7.5 minute

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donna M. Ware, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization AA Co. Office of Planning & Zoning **date** Nov. 1985

street & number Arundel Center **telephone**

city or town Annapolis, **state** MD

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

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

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

The Ballman/Gischel House, built circa 1870, is a two-story brick Victorian-Vernacular style dwelling situated on approximately 10-1/4 acres in Brooklyn Park. Facing north, it sits on a terrace overlooking the Patapsco River and affords a panoramic view of Baltimore City.

The house is a two-story central-passage plan brick structure with a two-story brick rear ell. The brick walls are laid in 7:1 common bond and feature a corbeled brick cornice. The main block has a hip roof with two interior brick chimneys flanking the central passage. The rear ell has a gable roof with an interior gable end chimney on the south elevation and an exterior chimney on the east elevation.

A two-story, flat roofed wing fills the southwest corner of the intersection of the main block and rear ell. It is a later addition, (circa 1930). The brick walls are laid in Flemish bond and also feature a corbeled brick cornice. This addition contains a prominent entrance on the west elevation, indicating a shift of the principal entrance from the facade (north elevation) of the main block. A single brick diamond pattern located over the entrance is the only decorative feature on the wing. An open brick porch extends from the south elevation.

A one-story frame shed and grape arbor extend from the rear (south elevation) of the ell. A small brick well house (?) extends from the frame shed wing.

The main block of the house faces north toward Baltimore. The original main entrance is located in the central bay of five bays on the north elevation. It is covered by a one-story, one-bay wide, hip roofed porch which is supported by two slender square wood posts and two identically proportioned wood pilasters. The porch frieze is decorated with jig-sawn, scalloped trim. The entrance has a segmental arch door head and features a door surround consisting of a bold, wood bolection molding. The windows in the main block are 2/2 double-hung sash and have segmental arch window heads on the front elevation and jack arches on the rest of the house. The Flemish bond brick addition has 6/6 double-hung sash windows.

All windows and doors, including the entrance located in the Flemish bond brick wing have been boarded up to prevent weather damage and vandalism. However, a circa 1970s photograph and physical evidence indicates that the doorway consists of a paneled door with sidelights and transom, flanked by two small windows. This Colonial Revival treatment and the use of a Flemish bond brick pattern, suggests that the Ballman and Gischel families made an effort to "Colonialize" their house during the height of the Colonial Revival movement.

Two outbuildings survive: a one-story frame garage built circa 1930 and a small one-story frame caretaker's cottage of the same period. The garage lies southwest of the main house and the caretaker's house to the south.

#8 SIGNIFICANCE **AA-983**

The Ballman/Gischel House was built circa 1870 by Henry Ballman. The property on which the house stands (approximately 10-1/4 acres) represents a portion of the 50-1/4 acre tract that Henry Ballman amassed between 1859 and 1866. In 1866, Henry Ballman joined with neighboring landowners to construct a new road from the County Road (now Ritchie Highway, Rt. 2), east, following roughly the course of E. 11th Ave., Brookwood Rd., Southerly Rd., and Ballman Ave., terminating at Henry's property. It was probably at this time that Henry constructed his brick house on a prominent spot overlooking the Patapsco River and the city of Baltimore.

In 1851, the City of Brooklyn was laid out by the Patapsco Company, a group of Baltimore businessmen. It was arranged in a traditional town grid plan, complete with a public square. The Ballman tract was located immediately to the south of the platted town and eventually became engulfed by the expanding metropolis. Some of the first property owners in Brooklyn were Gischel, Stoll, Grothe, and Henckel, all neighbors of Henry Ballman. Many were recent German immigrants that had first settled in Baltimore before acquiring land elsewhere.

Henry Ballman and his wife, Anna Catherine, raised three children at the Ballman house: Christian Frederick, Frank Henry, and Laura Caroline. Laura married William G. Gischel and at the death of her father in 1884, inherited the brick dwelling on 16-3/4 acres of land. William was the son of Adam Gischel, one of the first inhabitants of Brooklyn. William was a farmer, ship chandler, and most importantly, a builder. He and his brother, August, built fine brick homes for Herman Stoll and William Crisp in Brooklyn, which unfortunately no longer survive. He also built the first Curtis Bay Pumping Station, an elaborate system which provided water to Brooklyn and Curtis Bay. In 1893, he built St. Paul's Lutheran Church and a series of row houses on Pennington Ave. which formed the nucleus of Curtis Bay village.

William Gischel and his wife, Laura Caroline Ballman Gischel, had five children: Frank, Edward, Clarence, William and Carrie. With his two sons, Frank and Edward, William G. Gischel formed the William G. Gischel Co., Contractors and Builders. In 1897, William Gischel served as President of the Anne Arundel County board of Commissioners and in 1906, the Maryland Senate appointed him Justice of the Peace for the Fifth District.

In 1934, Laura Gischel conveyed the brick house and 16-3/4 acres (the portion she had inherited from her father) to her daughter Carrie Gischel Obrecht. Carrie had married George F. Obrecht, Jr. of Baltimore. The Obrechts were also prominent citizens in the Baltimore and Brooklyn areas. The present owner, Georgia Obrecht Clift is the daughter of George and Carrie Obrecht and a fourth generation descendant of the original owner, Henry Ballman.

The significance of the Ballman/Gischel House is two-fold: architectural and historical. Architecturally, it represents a finely-crafted brick Victorian Vernacular house with the influence of the Colonial Revival movement dramatically displayed in the addition of a circa 1930s Flemish

AA-983

 # 8 Significance (con't)

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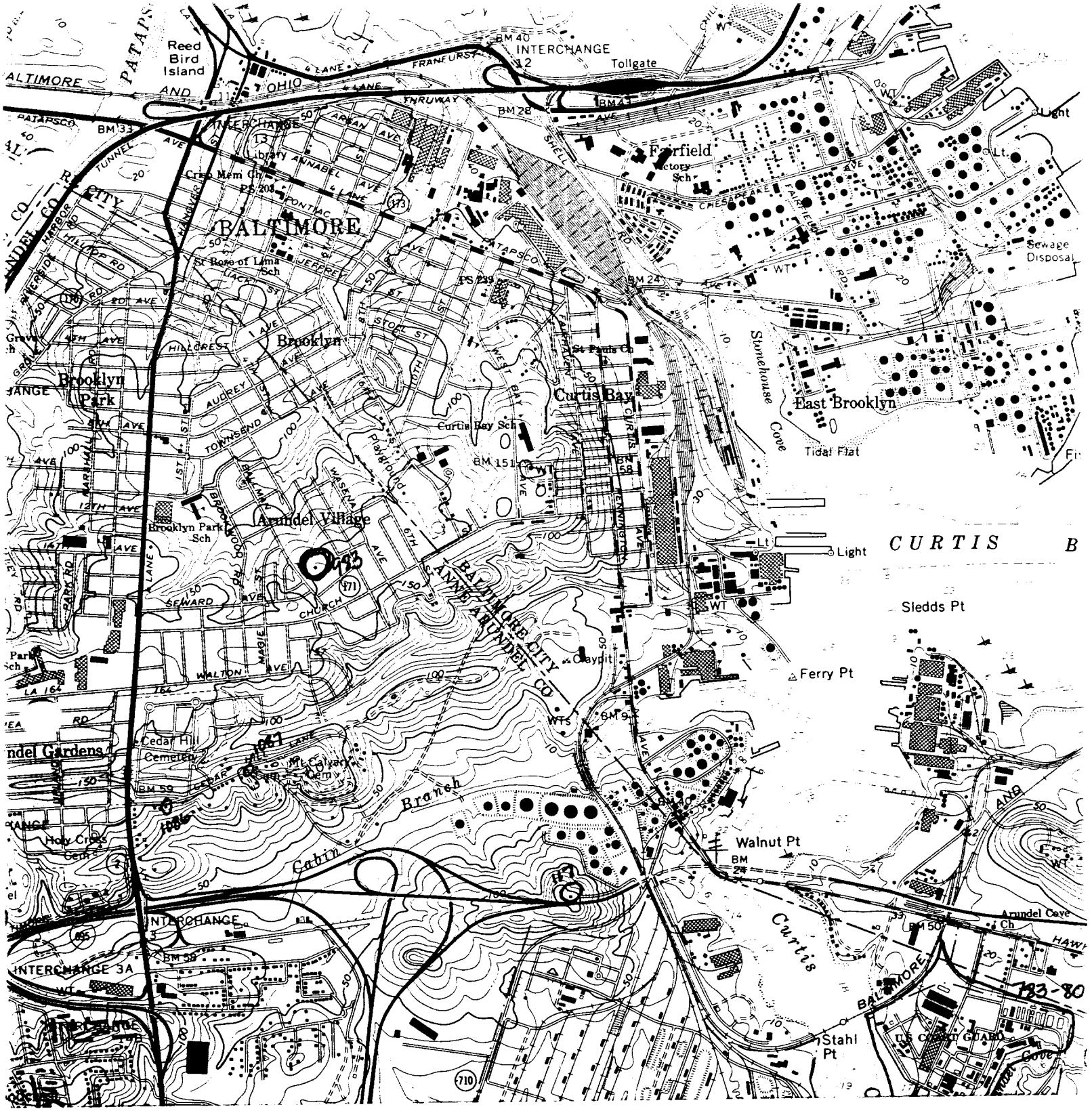
#9 Bibliographical References (con't):

Beirne, D. Randall, "Late Nineteenth Century Industrial Communities in Baltimore," **Maryland Historian**, Vol. XI, No. 1, Spring 1982, pp. 39-49.

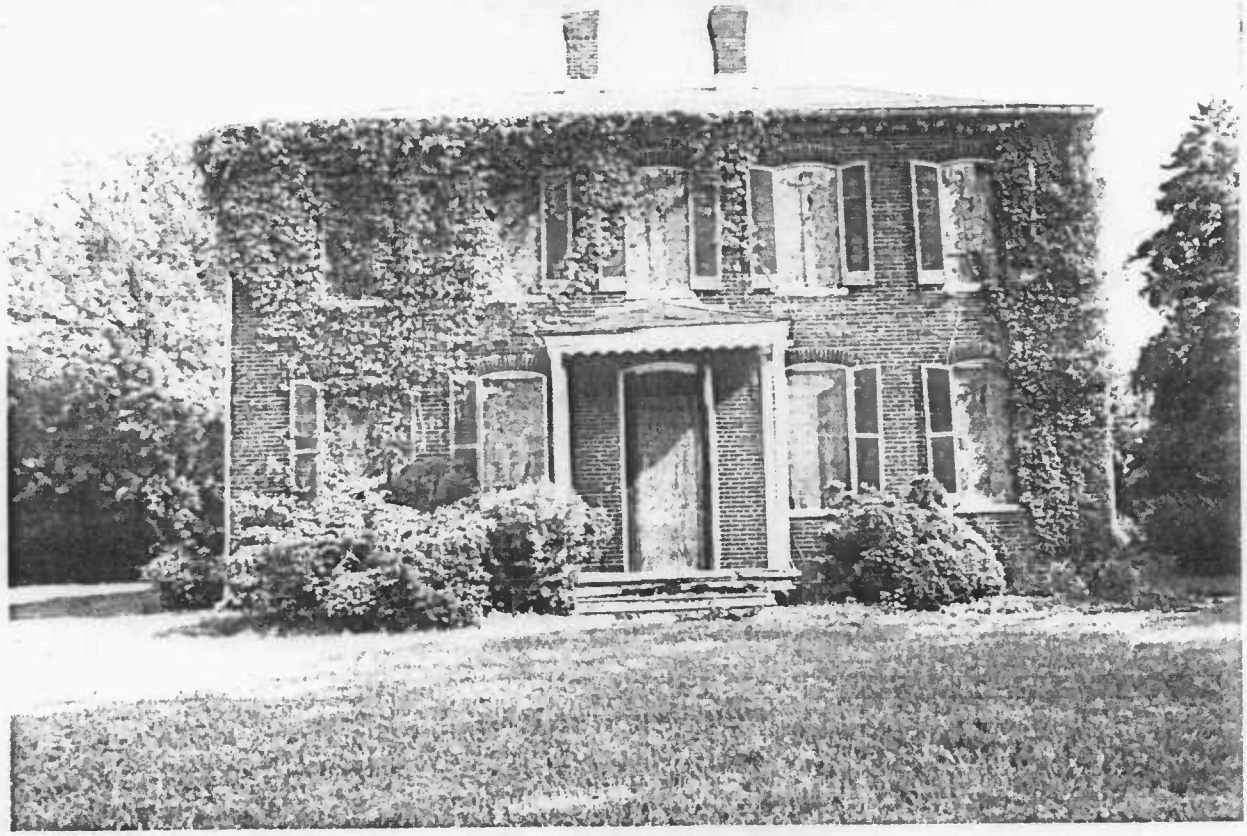
Maps: Martenet Map of 1860; Hopkins Atlas of 1878; and the USGS Map of 1907.

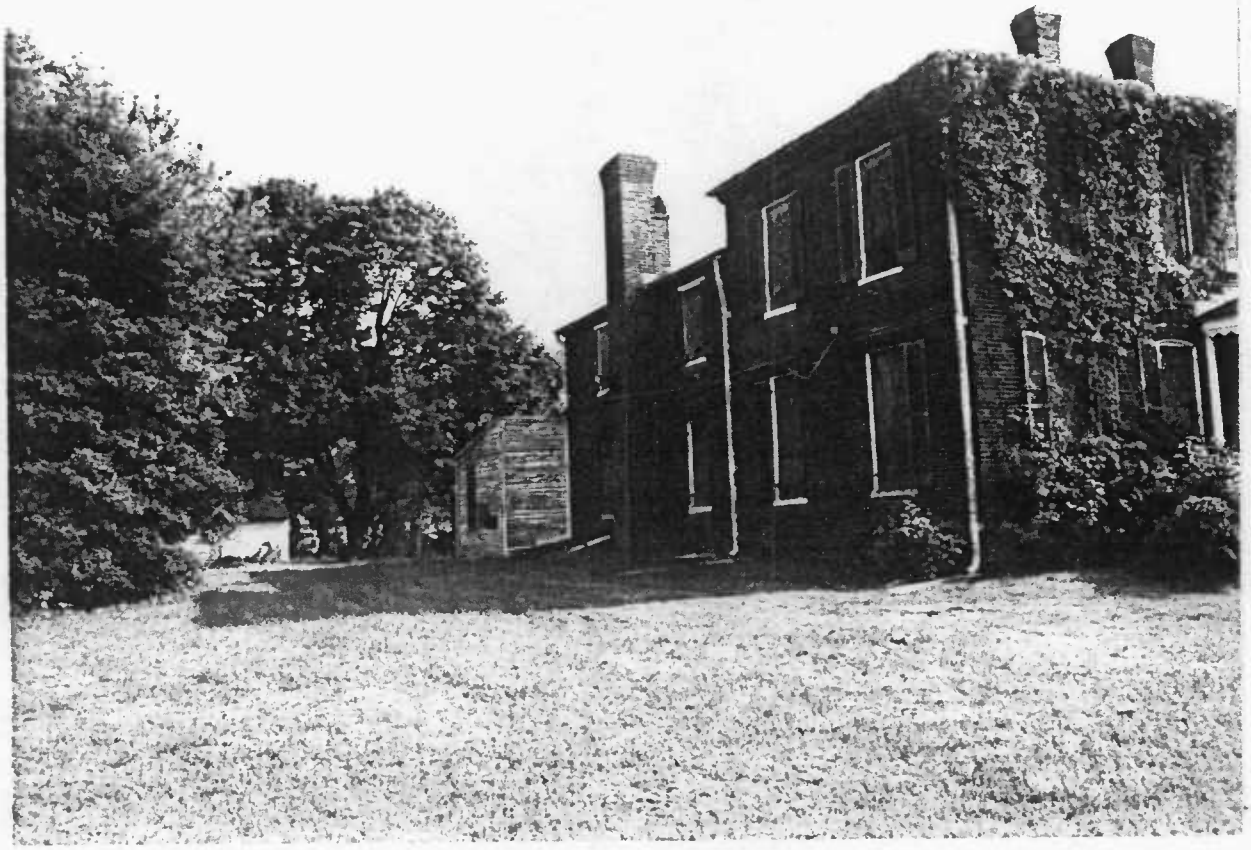


CURTIS BAY, MD
USGS 7.5 minute series
Scale 1:24,000
1969; photo revised 1974

Site: #AA-983
Name: Ballman/Gischel House
Location: 5601 Ballman Ave.
Brooklyn Park

AA-983





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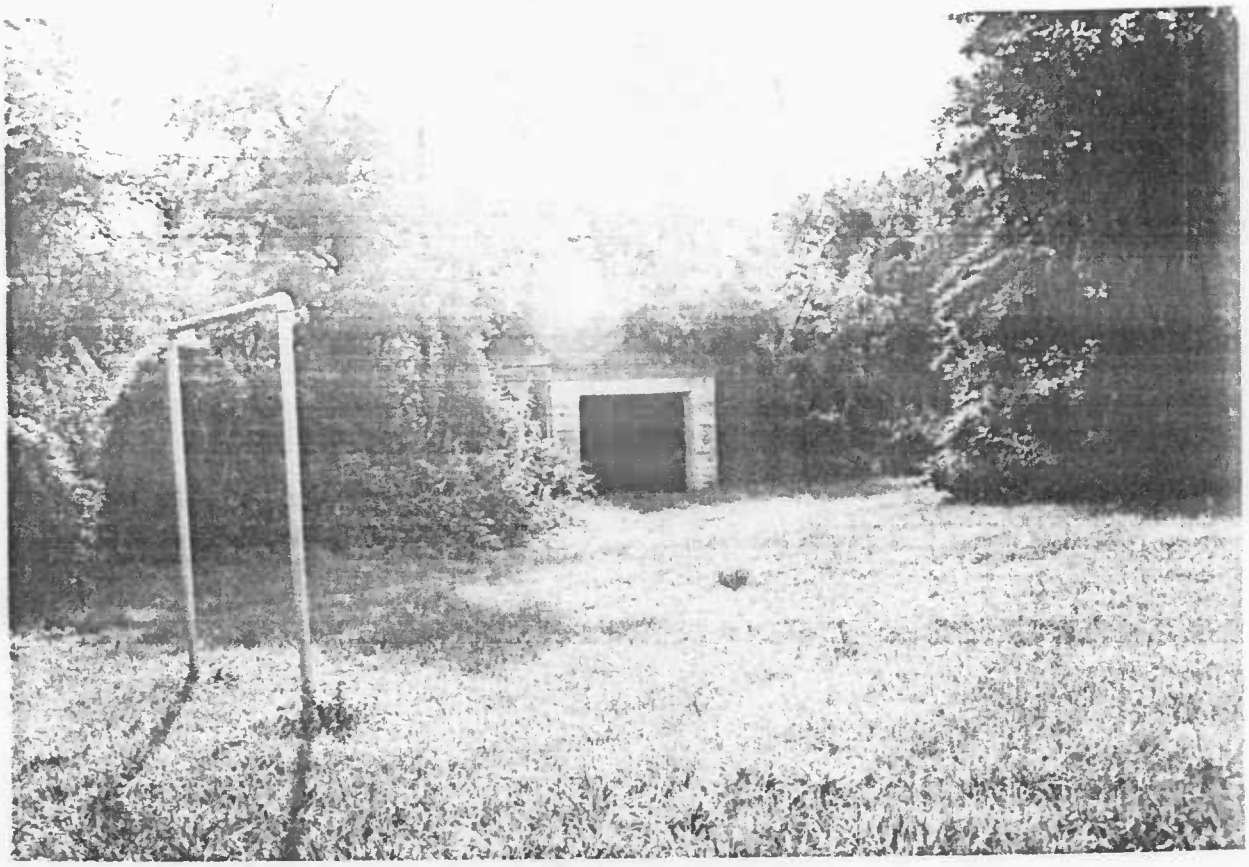
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