

BA-673

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name James Easter House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 408 Pleasant Hill Road _____ not for publication

city or town Owings Mills _____ vicinity

state Maryland _____ code _____ county Baltimore _____ code _____ zip code _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide _____ locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official /Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official /Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 _____

BA 673

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

James Easter House
Baltimore County, Maryland

Narrative Description

James Easter House, 408 Pleasant Hill Road - (Contributing Resource Count: 6: house, water tower, greenhouse, dairy house, cottage, garage). This balloon frame house has an irregular, massed plan with cross gables and side gable. It has two-and-one-half stories with four bays, and is covered with original lapped horizontal and shingle siding. Stylistic influences include Queen Anne with Gothic Revival and Shingle style detailing. Decorative features include a column-supported wrap-around porch with standing seam metal roof and turned balustrade, two story bay windows, pedimented gable dormers and round-arched windows. A section of the rear porch appears to have been enclosed, creating a one room addition. Outbuildings which remain on the property include a late nineteenth century, frame water tower; a green house; a circular, stone outbuilding with dairy/icehouse; an early twentieth century, shingle-sided, frame garage; and a shingle-sided dog house on a raised concrete foundation (non-contributing).

The upper stories of the house are sheathed with wood shingles; the ground floor has lapped wood siding. Light-colored slate shingles cover both roof as well as the dormer sides. There are a variety of window types including bay windows, ribbon windows on the living/sitting rooms flanked with decorative patterned panes, and simple 2/2 sash windows with louvered shutters. A handsome wood porch with turned posts and straight balusters wraps the front (east) and side (north) of the house. Several entry doors, some with transom lights, are accessed from the porch.

The main house is in fair to good condition. Its architectural integrity is excellent; its form and details have seen little, if any changes since it was built. The house has a rambling feeling reminiscent of late nineteenth century summer resorts such as in Mackinac Island, Michigan. This is emphasized by the array of surface treatments and gable ends, dormers, the gracious wrap-around porch, and the overall irregular, open plan. The house's airy, spacious feeling is enhanced by a balcony on the west side second floor, and bay window projections and dormers add visual interest to the exterior.

The greenhouse is in fair condition, with glass panes on the sides and ends with a clearstory on the roof. The clearstory could apparently be opened and closed by means of a wheel-driven pulley mechanism which is still extant. There are raised concrete beds throughout the greenhouse, around the walls and in the center. They still contain soil but do not appear to be in use today. The modest size of this structure suggests that the it was for family rather than commercial use.

Behind the greenhouse is a frame, single pile, single room, one story cottage. A brick chimney pierces the gable roof. The cottage has a single-leaf door and 6/6 light, double-hung sash windows. It is presently used as a workshop/storage area.

The water tower is square and constructed of wood with overlapping siding. An octagonal hipped roof has overhanging eaves with decorative wood brackets. A small door and platform is present on the north side. The wood superstructure is on top of a smaller, square, semi-subterranean stone building which probably served as a spring house. It is still in good condition and is accessed by a small wood door.

The garage is a large, three-bay frame building with overhanging gable roof and wood shingles on the gable end. It has sash windows and entry door on the side, and the inside has been used for a workshop. It is of early 20th century construction, but is a contributing structure.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7, 8, 9 Page 2

James Easter House
Baltimore County, Maryland

Narrative Description cont.

Behind the main house is a small, plastered, subterranean dairy or icehouse with superstructure which is circular in shape with a hexagonal hip roof and a small spire. The upper portion may have been used for curing meats, as suggested by the large hooks that pierce the roof beams. A three-bay open storage shed is attached to the building.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The James Easter House sits on a tract of land purchased by James Miller Easter from Hugh McVeigh on September 23, 1892. McVeigh had owned the parcel since he bought it from E.L. Geary on June 24, 1884. James Easter is said to have occupied the property since 1895, and to have been in residence as late as 1978. Informant descriptions state that Easter enlarged the house, which implies that it was constructed by one of the previous property owners (Landmarks Commission Files); however, this information requires verification.

The principal barn has been destroyed, but the main house and other outbuildings as described above remain intact in fair to good condition. All should be considered contributing resources with the exception of the doghouse. The house and its site, including its principal outbuildings, retain their historic character and integrity. The alteration of the rear elevation as a result of the partial enclosure of the porch does not compromise the historic character of the structure.

The James Easter House is a significant example of a late nineteenth century Victorian residence incorporating elements of the Queen Anne, Gothic Revival and Shingle styles. The combination of style types embody many aspects of the Romantic movement in architecture. The house is the antithesis of the classic, symmetrical and restrained modes with its open, irregular plan, complex layout, alternating shapes and projections. This structure's eclectic and interesting combination of nineteenth century style types and its good architectural integrity make it a rare resource in Baltimore County. The James Easter House is an excellent local example of an elaborate Victorian residence representing several popular national styles. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The house, surrounding estate property and outbuildings are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register under criterion C because they embody the "distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction."

Bibliography

- Chapman Publishing Company, 1897. Biographical and Historical Encyclopedia, NY.
Forbes, Marie. Speaking of our Past: A Narrative History of Owings Mills, Maryland 1640-1988. Heritage Books, 1988.
Howard and Brown. Early Patents and Roads, 1976, on file at the Maryland Historical Trust.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form
 HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. BA-673

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic James Easter House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 408 Pleasant Hill Road not for publication

city, town Owings Mills vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Baltimore

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name James Easter

street & number 342 Pleasant Hill Road telephone no.:

city, town Owings Mills state and zip code Maryland 21117

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds Office liber 4577

street & number Baltimore County Courthouse folio 29

city, town Towson state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Contributing Resource Count: 6

Irregular, massed plan with cross gables, two-and-one-half story, four bay, frame with original vertical and shingle siding, side gable, balloon frame, detached dwelling in Queen Anne style with Gothic Revival and Shingle style detailing. Decorative features include a column-supported wrap-around porch with stand seam metal roof and turned balustrade, two story bay windows, pedimented gable dormers and round-arched windows. A section of the rear porch appears to have been enclosed, creating a one room addition. Outbuildings which remain on the property include a late nineteenth century, frame water tower; a green house; a circular stone silo or corn house; one or more frame barns; an early twentieth century, shingle-sided, frame garage; and a shingle-sided dog house on a raised concrete foundation (non-contributing).

The house and its site, including its principal outbuildings retain their historic character and integrity. The alteration of the rear elevation as a result of the partial enclosure of the porch does not compromise the historic character of the structure.

8. Significance

Survey No. BA-673

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> 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.

The James Easter House sits on a tract of land purchased by James Miller Easter from Hugh McVeigh on September 23, 1892. McVeigh had owned the parcel since he bought it from E. L. Geary on June 24, 1884. James Easter is said to have occupied the property since 1895, and to have been in residence as late as 1978. Informant descriptions state that Easter enlarged the house, which implies that it was constructed by one of the previous property owners (Landmarks Commission Files). However, this information requires verification.

The James Easter House is a significant example of a late nineteenth century Victorian residence incorporating elements of the Queen Anne, Gothic Revival and Shingle styles. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The house and surrounding estate property outbuildings are eligible for the National Register under criterion C because they embody the "distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction". The James Easter House is an excellent local example of an elaborate Victorian residence representing several popular national styles.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Reisterstown, MD

Quadrangle scale 1" = 2

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax map #57, plot #154 and #155

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 Sheryl Hack, Architectural Historian

organization MAAR Associates, Inc.

date 12/30/91

street & number P.O. Box 655, 9 Liberty Plaza

telephone (302) 368-5777

city or town Newark

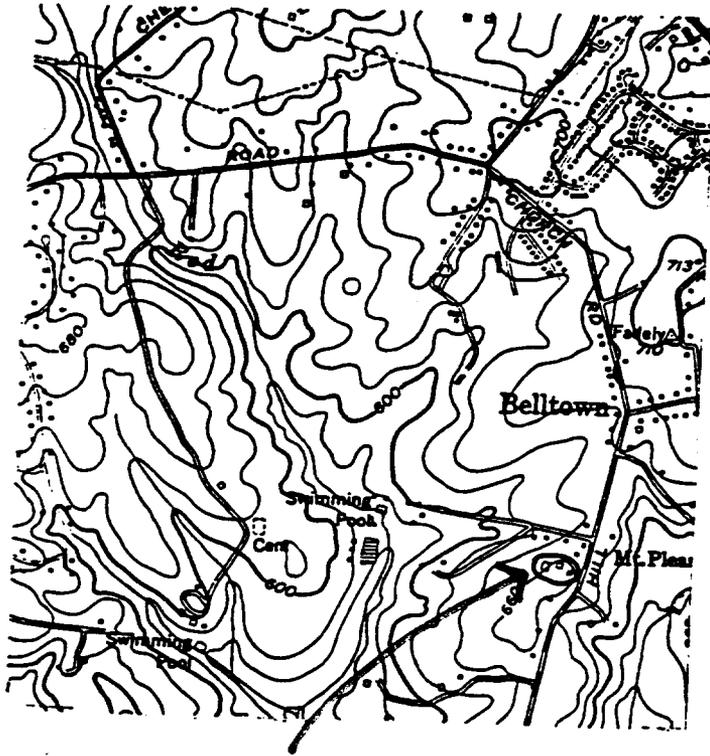
state Delaware

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.

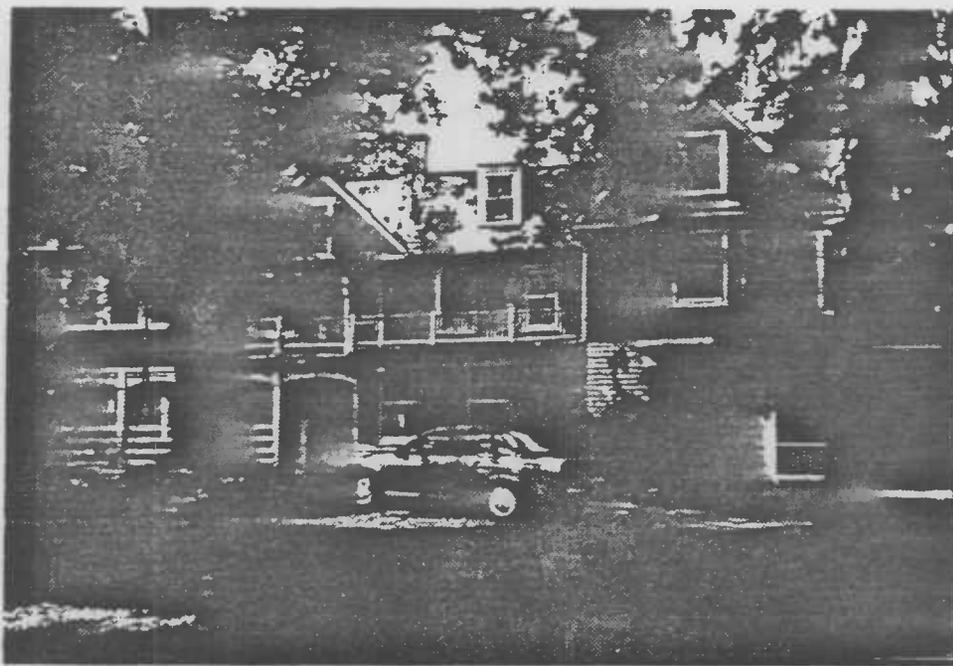
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 DHCP/DHCC
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
 514-7600

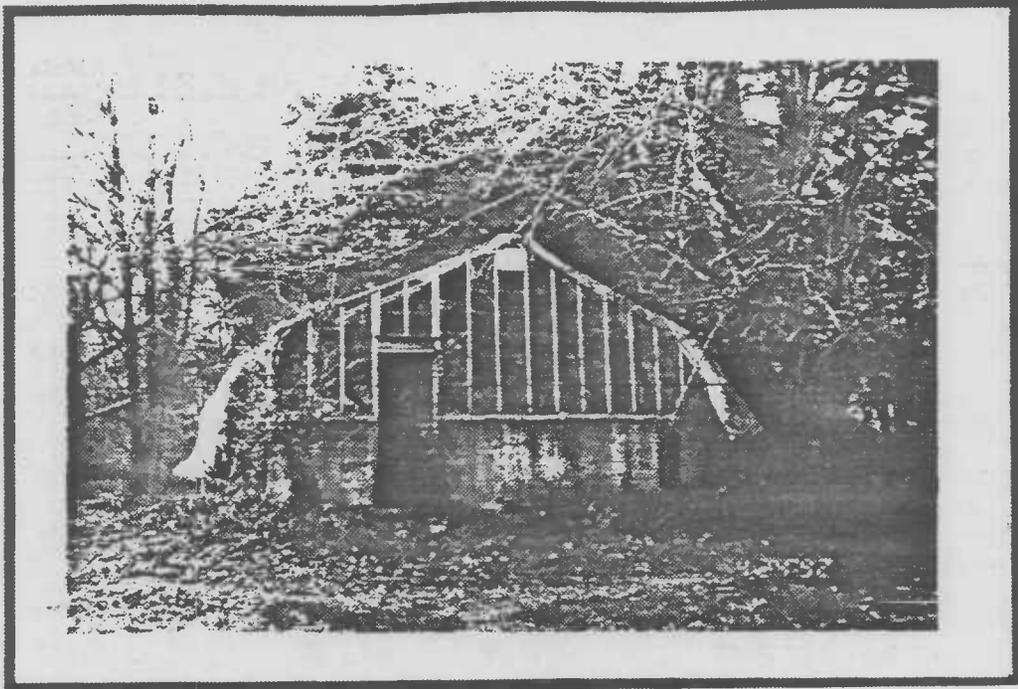




James Easter House - 408 Pleasant Hill Road - Front Elevation



James Easter House - 408 Pleasant Hill Road - Rear Elevation



James Easter House - Greenhouse, Front Elevation



James Easter House - Outbuilding, Front Elevation