

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-0391

T. Piersol House

13407 Blythenia Road

Phoenix, Baltimore County

1840 ca.

Private

The T. Piersol House, constructed circa 1840, is representative of the many vernacular stone buildings erected throughout Baltimore County in the mid-19th century and is one of several vernacular stone buildings in the vicinity of the industrial community of Warren. Warren was established as a manufacturing village in the early 19th century, when the Warren Cotton Factory was constructed there along the Gunpowder Falls. At roughly this time, the T. Piersol House was constructed. The 1850 atlas also depicts the first identified resident of the property, T. Piersol. The 1877 county atlas reveals that many more buildings, industrial and otherwise, were constructed over the twenty-seven year period beginning in the mid-19th century. By 1877, John Piersol, a native of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania who settled in Baltimore County in 1839, resided in the vernacular stone house on what was then a 190-acre property. Warren continued to grow in population and size through the early 20th century, at which point Seymon (or Seymour) Piersol was the dwelling's occupant.

The T. Piersol House is a two-and-a-half-story solid stone dwelling that is parged with stucco. The rectangular main block fronts southeast with a central one-and-a-half-story, two-bay-deep stone ell that extends to the northwest. Circa 1900, the ell was extended by an additional bay of wood frame construction clad in German siding. Two reconstructed interior end chimneys rise from the main block. The first is parged with stucco while the second features stretcher bond brick construction. Circa 1980, the first story of the façade was significantly altered by the creation of an enclosed first story porch. Entry into the main block is through the raised foundation, which features one sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door with a square-edged wood surround. Additionally, one 6/3 window and one flush-vertical-board single-leaf wood door, both of which have square-edged wood surrounds, are also located at the foundation level. The first story porch is enclosed with five two-light sliding double-leaf plate glass doors with metal surrounds. Two 2/2 windows with square-edged wood surrounds and operable louvered wood shutters pierce the second story. Southwest of the house is a one-story, one-bay-square circa 1890 kitchen of solid random rubble stone construction that is parged with concrete. The building features an overhanging front gable roof clad in standing seam metal and one interior end chimney of stretcher bond brick construction. A circa 1920 shed is also located on the property. The building features a vinyl-sided wood frame structural system, shed roof clad in standing seam metal, and a poured concrete slab foundation.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0391

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic T. Piersol House (preferred)

other Kenneth L. Riley House

2. Location

street and number 13407 Blythenia Road __ not for publication

city, town Phoenix __ vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name Kenneth L. and Anne C. Riley

street and number 13407 Blythenia Road telephone Not Available

city, town Phoenix state MD zip code 21131

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 4061 folio 120

city, town Towson tax map 43 tax parcel 203 tax ID number 1018035400

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> __district	<input type="checkbox"/> __public	<input type="checkbox"/> __agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X private	<input type="checkbox"/> __commerce/trade	__3__	__ __ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> __structure	<input type="checkbox"/> __both	<input type="checkbox"/> __defense	__ __	__ __ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> __site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X domestic	__ __	__ __ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> __object		<input type="checkbox"/> __education	__ __	__ __ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> __funerary	__3__	__ __ Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> __government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> __health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> __industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> __landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> __recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> __religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> __social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> __transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> __work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> __unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> __vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> __other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
			1	

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-0391

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

Constructed circa 1840, the vernacular T. Piersol House is a two-and-a-half-story solid stone dwelling that is parged with stucco. The rectangular main block fronts southeast with a central one-and-a-half-story, two-bay-deep stone ell that extends to the northwest. Circa 1900, the ell was extended by an additional bay of wood frame construction clad in German siding. Two reconstructed interior end chimneys rise from the main block. The first is parged with stucco while the second features stretcher bond brick construction. Circa 1980, the first story of the façade was significantly altered by the creation of an enclosed first story porch. At that time, a one-story enclosed porch was built onto the southwest elevation of the ell. Entry into the main block is through the raised foundation, which features one sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door with a square-edged wood surround. Additionally, one 6/3 window and one flush-vertical-board single-leaf wood door, both of which have square-edged wood surrounds, are also located at the foundation level. The first story porch is enclosed with five two-light sliding double-leaf plate glass doors with metal surrounds. Two 2/2 windows with square-edged wood surrounds and operable louvered wood shutters pierce the second story.

Southwest of the house is a one-story, one-bay-square circa 1890 kitchen of solid random rubble stone construction that is parged with concrete. The building features an overhanging front gable roof clad in standing seam metal and one interior end chimney of stretcher bond brick construction. The façade is pierced by a flush-vertical-board single-leaf wood door with a molded wood surround

A circa 1920 shed is also located on the property. The building features a vinyl-sided wood frame structural system, shed roof clad in standing seam metal, and a poured concrete slab foundation. The façade is pierced by two 6/6 windows and one paneled single-leaf wood door with an aluminum surround.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-0391

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1840 ca.-1980 ca. **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1840 ca., 1900 ca., 1980 ca.

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The T. Piersol House, constructed circa 1840, is representative of the many vernacular stone building erected throughout Baltimore County in the mid-19th century and is one of several vernacular stone buildings in the vicinity of the industrial community of Warren. Warren was established as a manufacturing village in the early 19th century, when the Warren Cotton Factory was constructed there along the Gunpowder Falls. In 1830, after the mill was in operation for only a few years, several of the industrial buildings burned.¹ At roughly this time, the T. Piersol House was constructed. The factory appears to have continued operations over the next thirty four years, for the 1850 county atlas depicts the factory, sawmill, grist mill, a general store, tavern, schoolhouse and Methodist church in the small community. The atlas also depicts the first identified resident of the property, T. Piersol.² In 1864, the factory property was sold to Morris and Baldwin. This Baltimore-based firm maintained the mill's operations through the late 19th century.³ Their acquisition of the Warren factory appears to have had a significant effect on the success of local industry and commerce, for the 1877 county atlas reveals that many more buildings, industrial and otherwise, were constructed over the twenty-seven year period beginning in the mid-19th century. By 1877, John Piersol, a native of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania who settled in Baltimore County in 1839, resided in the vernacular stone house on what was then a 190-acre property.⁴ Warren continued to grow in population and size through the early 20th century, at which point Seymon (or Seymour) Piersol was the dwelling's occupant.⁵

Vernacular buildings tend to have little to no stylistic detailing and are typically constructed by local builders with locally available tools and materials. Vernacular architecture accounts for the majority of the built

¹ J.Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA), p. 881.

² J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

³ J.Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA), p. 881.

⁴ *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).

⁵ *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0391

Name T. Piersol House, 13407 Blythenia Road, Phoenix, Baltimore County
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

environment and reflects the traditions of society, rather than the whims of the architect.⁶ Throughout Baltimore County, there are a number of vernacular stone houses from this period. Stone was readily available in the county, with both marble and granite quarries located throughout the region. Commonly, these random rubble stone dwellings are two stories in height, single-pile with side gable roofs. This continuity of form is a result of folk architecture and the reliance on constructing forms that had been built by the previous generation.

⁶ Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, editors, *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, (Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1986), pp. xv-xvi.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-0391

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .50 Acre
Acreage of historical setting 190 Acres
Quadrangle name Towson Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction circa 1840, the T. Piersol House has been associated with the 1.53 acres of land known as tax parcel 203 of map 43 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 19, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

EA-0228
13704 BARDON ROAD
PHOENIX, BALTIMORE COUNTY

5682 1/2 SW
(HEREFORD)

SUNNYBROOK (JUNC. MD. 146) 0.7 MI.



BA-0352
13640 POPLAR HILL ROAD
PHOENIX, BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0391
13907 BLYTHENIA RD
PHOENIX, BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-0778
02 WHEATGATE CIRCLE
OCCLESVILLE
BALTIMORE COUNTY

3A-0366
2415 OLD BOSLEY ROAD
UTHERVILLE-TIMONIUM
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2235
12600 JARRETTSVILLE PIKE
TIMONIUM, BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2236
12500 JARRETTSVILLE PIKE
TIMONIUM, BALTIMORE COUNTY



BA-0391

13407 BLYTHENIA ROAD, PHOENIX
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

E, CORNER

1 of 4



BA 0391

13407 BLYTHENIA ROAD, PHOENIX
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

NW. ELEVATION + KITCHEN

2014



BA-0391

13407 BLYTHENIA ROAD, PHOENIX
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

S. CORNER

3 of 4



BA-0391

13407 BLYTHENIA ROAD, PHOENIX
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

3/2001

MD SHPO

SHED

4 of 4

BA- 391

KENNETH L. RILEY HOUSE - Before 1850 - North of Merryman's Mill Road, 1.3 mile S.W. of Sunnybrook, north side of Blythenia Road. Apparently the T. Piersol house of 1850 map, the John Piersol house of 1877 atlas. John Piersol, a native of Lancaster County, had arrived in 1839, per the atlas patron list. Atlases of 1898 and 1915 list Harry Piersol and the 1918 tax list gives dimensions of 18 x 30', 16 x 20', and 16 x 18', in various wings. Stone and stucco, vernacular style farm house, two stories, with tin gable rood; three bays wide.