

BA 1228

9/78

Sunwalt House
Reisterstown, Maryland
Private access

218 MAIN STREET is one of the earlier houses in Reisterstown, substantially constructed of brick, its street facade laid in Flemish bond indicating a degree of sophistication. Several late nineteenth century touches indicate a moderate attempt to update the style of the earlier house. The attached shop wing (now a separate parcel) relates to many other Reisterstown houses with attached shop wings.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Sumwalt House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

218 Main Street

6th

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE Reister Tavern
- 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
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Margaret Falstitch

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

218 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

___ VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

21136

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 5047

Folio #: 553

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

McGrain, John
Industrial-Archaeological Survey of the NW transportation Corridor

DATE

1975

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-1228

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

218 MAIN STREET

218 Main Street is a brick house 2 1/2 storeys in height, three bays in width, facing the street to the east. It dates from ca. 1815-1830 with superficial additions of ca. 1880. A two storey brick wing extends to the west, its north wall flush and continuous with that of the main house, both sections constructed simultaneously. A two storey porch is at the south side of the rear wing, its roof a part of the gable roof which covers the rear wing. Flush beaded wood siding finishes the partial west gable above the porch.

The street front is laid in Flemish bond; other walls are of common bond. Flush chimneys rise above both the north and south gables; the northerly chimney is false. Formerly a chimney was flush with the west gable but it has been removed. The east front and north and south cornices are later additions, being wide, supported by scrolled brackets of two alternating designs and containing concealed gutters. The original flush barge board and simple cornice remain at the west end and south side of the rear wing. The principal entrance is in the northerly bay of the east front, updated later in the 19th century. The door has arched panels of bolection mouldings and it is surrounded with side-light and a transom, all set in matching paneled jambs. The entrance is surrounded by later wooden trim to suggest an earlier date. Windows were made longer and narrower, probably when the cornice and entrance elements were added, and they now contain 4/4 sash. Earlier windows on the rear or west facade are now 9/6 in the first storey, 6/6 in the second with narrow bullnose frames. A frame bay window projects from the south end near the southwest corner; its detailing and particularly its cornice relate to similar later details superimposed in this earlier house.

Within is a stair hall across the north end, a pair of rooms to the south and a single room in the rear wing. A one-storey addition fills the angle between the main house and its original wing.

On the ceiling of the hall is a simple plaster medallion. The stairway rises, with intermediate landings, to the third floor. The shaped rounded rail is supported by massive turned and tapered octagonal newels and balusters, all of walnut, and all dating from the late nineteenth century. The bases of the original slim newels are in-situ as is the original round rail with its plain rectangular balusters from the top landing to the third floor. The top few of the replaced newels are large plain square pieces as though an insufficient quantity of the latter turned ones were rodered.

See continuation sheet #2

The front parlor has modern finishes and a modern mantel from Mexico. A wide doorway is in the partition between the two rooms now missing its double doors which opened into the rear parlor. In the rear parlor, the mantel is of painted and incised slate, dating from the late nineteenth century, arched for a Latrobe stove, now missing. The original corner block architraves remain in the rear parlor as does the original 9/6 west window with its paneled jambs and apron.

See continuation sheet #2

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

218 MAIN STREET

Continuation sheet #2

Description

A heavy moulded plaster medallion surrounds the early 20th century chandelier. The room in the rear wing is fitted as a modern kitchen, its fireplace removed.

The second floor plan is similar and its details are simpler. Original doors remain with six partially-raised panels and original cast-iron butt hinges and wrought-iron locks with small brass knobs. Beaded architraves have cyma-versa-with-astrigal backbands. The mantel remains in the west chamber, consisting of pilasters and frieze end-blocks matching the architraves of the first floor.

The attic or third storey is finished with modern materials and the rafter peak is not accessible to view. A large wrought-iron spike secures the base of the rafters to the top wall plate, visible in the passage to the attic of the rear wing. Studs in this passage are nailed with cut nails and finished at the ridge with handsplit pine lath. The hewn rafters of the rear wing are joined at the ridge with a pegged half-lap.

The cellar is beneath the front parlor only, with a passage cut through beneath the rear parlor to an entrance in the west wall, now within the later addition which fills this angle. A segmental arch supports the fireplace of the front parlor. The first floor joists are straight sawn and the floor boards are relieved on their undersides to fit the joists.

Attached to the south end is a frame shop wing, three bays in length, one storey in height with a nearly-flat roof falling behind a low parapet above the east front wall. A porch extends across the east or front street. The east wall is of board-and-batten and the other walls are covered with asbestos shingles. Modern display windows flank the modern door approximately centered in the east front. The interior of the shop was not inspected.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

Local history

Site of original Reister Inn

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Sumwalt

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

218 MAIN STREET

One of the earlier houses in Reisterstown, substantially constructed of brick, its street facade in Flemish bond indicating a degree of sophistication. Several late nineteenth century touches indicate a moderate attempt to update the style of the earlier house. The attached shop wing (now a separate parcel) relates to many other Reisterstown houses with similar attached shop wings.

This building is close to the original site of John Reister's tavern. What can not be determined is whether today's building is in any way a remnant of this tavern.

John Reister held an inn-keeper's license as early as 1761 (Marks op cit p.7) Philip Reister managed this inn for his father as a young man. Dr. Dickson wrote "John Reister, Sr. first located on that part of the land where Mr. Henry H. Gore now resides, and there built himself a tavern and dwelling of logs, both two stories high, one being partly of brick (Dickson, op cit., p.4)

~~By 1786, Philip Reister had taken over the operation of the inn~~

The 1798 Federal Direct Tax mentions only one possible structure which is partly of brick; Owner, John Ryster, Sr., Occupant-Catherine Mabury, part of Ryster's Desire. One hew'd Log Dwelling house two story 52x24, by Brick addition one story 28x15. One hew'd Log smoke house one story 10x10. Two acres. Valuation \$300.00. Apparently this structure is all gone.

By 1786 Philip Reister had taken over the operation of the inn, but he died suddenly in 1792, and the inn reverted back to his father. John was then assisted in its operation by his oldest daughter, Catherine, who had married twice; first to Roland Smith in 1772 (he died in 1781); and then to Francis Mayberry in 1783 (he died between 1784-90). Smith had been a merchant and conducted the first store in Reisterstown on John Reisters's land south of the inn very briefly (Marks, op.cit., p 53-4) Dr. Dickson writes about Catherine this way; "Mrs. Smith, not being satisfied with her lone condition in life, deemed it prudent and advisable to again launch her lonely bark out upon the matrimonial sea. After mature reflection, she selected a man by the name of Mayberry, whom she married. Mr. Mayberry continued the store, but did not live many years, and also died on this place, thus leaving Katy blessed again with the habiliments of a widow's life, which she bore with Christian fortitude until the day of her death". (Dickson, op cit., p 5)

Catherine did also help her father and lived in the inn as the 1798 Direct tax records suggests. Eventually her son, John Smith, purchased the property from his grandfather in 1801 with two acres. (WG69/611-13) In 1806 he bought more land from Reister's estate (1 1/2 acres) as well as the Trine property adjoining the inn (1/2 acre to the south) (WG 90/375-6 & WG 90/373-75)

See continuation sheet #2

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Significance

All this property he conveyed in 1808 to his brother-in-law, John Sumwalt as a settlement of a debt (WG 96/175-8) in 1912. John Smith, then living in the city, was a complainant in a Chancery suit against John Sumwalt claiming he had sold the inn and land with the understanding that it could later be repurchased, but that Sumwalt had repudiated the agreement. The Court ordered the property sold and in 1814 John Sumwalt bought it for \$2400.00 (Chancery Book No.90, 1814; 351-61 & Unrecorded Chancery Papers No 5006) Title was eventually conveyed to Sumwalt in 1839(TK 287/431-2)Marks op cit. p. 57)

It was John Sumwalt, a man of considerable property in Reisterstown, a man of prosperity, who built the present building as his residence. In 1820 he was appointed Justice of the Peace. "Public spirited, in 1824 he deeded the trustees of the school house in Reisterstown, a lot on Cockeys-Mill Road as a school site and in 1826 was appointed a member of the board of trustees of the newly created Franklin Academy built there. (Marks op cit., p. 56) Towards the end of his life, he built a brick house and donated it as the Methodist Parsonage. (Marks op cit., p 56) He died in 1847 at the age of 71.

Sumwalt's heirs dispersed his vast land holdings. In 1850 James Warren purchased the property under discussion at auction (AWB 448/9-11) Up to this time, a tavern had continued on this land, because a list of inn-keepers is recorded. Again it is not clear what, if any, connection there was between the tavern and the Sumwalt house. they may have adjoined or Sumwalt may have used some of the foundations of the inn for his house. Sumwalt appears with the tavern and three acres in the 1823 Assessment. Records of the Chancery case cited above show that Sumwalt had once received a tax reduction by converting the tavern to residential use. (McGrain, op cit., p. 1V-23) Warren held the property until 1866. In that year he sold the "tavern stand and lot..." to Henry H.Gore (JHL 48/56-7/. It is reported in a magazine article that Gore "removed a portion of the hotel property, remodeled the remainder, and converted it to a modern house". (Md. Monthly Magazine., op cit.,p.11) Mrs.Marks says; "Henry Gore was probably the last person to use the building as a tavern". In 1877 he leased the property to S.B.Yingling, a great,great grandson of John Reister!(Marks, op cit., p. 17) The 1877 Atlas shows his store & residence to be located on this site. He was a jeweler & watchmaker.

In 1900, the executor of Henry Gore's estate sold the property to Lewis D.Gore and wife, Martha and Lottie Gore. Lottie immediately relinquished her share. (MBN 244/111). In 1914,Martha Gore, widow, sold it to Charlotte Cullison and husband, Roy. (WPC435/239) The Cullisons sold it in 1920 to Rembret Gore and Minnie Gore (WPC 534/435) The widower, Rembret Gore, sold it, in 1950 to Wainwright Dawson and wife. (TBS 1825/292) The Dawsons sold to Stephen C. and Dorothy Hess in 1953 (GLB 2349/256) Eventually in 1969, Dorothy Hess sold the property to co-partners Gough T.Bolton and Margaret C.Faulstich,(5047/553) the present owners.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Land Records Baltimore County Towson, Md.
2. Marks, Lillian B. Reister's Desire (Baltimore, 1975)
3. Dickson, Isaac N. Early Days of Reisterstown and Vicinity
(Kiwanis Club of Reisterstown, 1947)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .63 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY James T. Wollon A.I.A.

NAME / TITLE Mrs George Cosman, Volunteer Researcher
Ms. Cornelia Ives Project Coordinator

September 1978
DATE

ORGANIZATION Historic Reisterstown, Inc

833-3078 (Ms Ives)
TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER 430 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN Reisterstown

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



BA 1228 (store wing)

220 Main St

Rest. Md

Carol Pollack

4-77

East



BA 1228
Sumwalt House
218 Main St
Reist. Md.
Carol Pollack
4-77
East.