

BA 1278

8/78

Isaac Dickson House

Reisterstown, Maryland

Private Access

67-69 MAIN STREET together comprises one of the earliest and one of the most sophisticated and visible historic structures in Reisterstown. 67 MAIN STREET, the northerly section, corresponds to a log structure identified in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax. Structures this old are rare; rarer still are log structures. 69 MAIN STREET is of traditional form but its great depth, matched brick facade, its great number of large windows and its entrance feature with carved consoles marks it as a structure of substance and sophistication. With a large parking lot for the commercial structure to the south, 69 MAIN STREET has become one of the most visible of Reisterstown's historic structures.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Isaac Dickson House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

67-69 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

VICINITY OF

6th

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

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 COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. D.D. Caples

Telephone #: 833-4699

STREET & NUMBER

Nicodemus Road

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland, 21136**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: 3031

Folio #: 288

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

BA-1278

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

67-69 MAIN STREET is a structure of two distinct sections, two distinct periods. The interior was not accessible for inspection.

67 MAIN STREET is the older; it is of log and/or frame, two storeys in height, three bays in length and it appears to date from the late eighteenth century, corresponding to the structure recorded in the 1798 Direct Federal Tax as a two storey log structure, 24 by 16. The width of this structure, across the west front, facing the street, is 24 feet; its present depth is 41 feet, obviously the result of additions, indicated by the assymetrical roof profile and chimney placement. The rear or easterly slope of the roof extends to an eave but one and one-half low storeys high; an internal end chimney is approximately midway down that slope. Another internal end chimney is just forward or west of the ridge. Assuming the front chimney to mark the original ridge of a symetrical roof, the depth of this structure would be 16 feet, corresponding to the 1798 Tax record.

The principal entrance is in the middle bay; it is surrounded by a wide architrave having an applied backband and it is topped by a frieze and cornice, possibly early. First storey windows are considerably taller than second storey windows and all have architrave surrounds with applied backbands. The 2/2 sash date from the late 19th century. The weatherboards are of random widths.

69 MAIN STREET is a taller two storeys in height, three bays in length, of brick, dating from ca. 1850-1865. Bricks of the all-stretcher west or street-front facade are matched for uniformity in size and color, laid with very tight joints. Bricks of the end and rear are slightly more random in size and color. Gauged jack arches above the front windows are greater than four courses in height and have an exaggerated splay. Jack arches above side and rear windows are typical unbonded jack arches three courses in height. The principal entrance is in the northerly bay; it consists of a door with transom and sidelights, a wide plain surround having carved consoles supporting a cornice; dentils are in the bedmoulding between the consoles. The door jambs, between the door leaf and the sidelights, are square columns supporting an architrave functioning as the transom bar. Windows are 4/4 with louvred blinds; first storey windows are somewhat taller than second storey windows.

A pair of flush chimneys rises above the south gable and windows flank each chimney in the first and second storeys. In the attic storey is a pair of small windows between the chimneys aligned above the middle windows of the lower two storeys.

A one-storey hipped-roof porch extends across the rear facade and the rear or east facade is expressed as two bays, an entrance being in the northerly.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1278

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" 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)		<i>local history</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Part of this building, the frame part was standing as of 1797 when it was occupied by John Parrish, nephew of John Reister II. Parrish had purchased the land Lots #119 and 137 from Richard Clark and Jacob Medairy (BC Deeds WG No. XX:377 and 319) in 1796, the same year that he married Elizabeth Yohn.(1) (Marks. op. cit., p. 171)

The Parrishes sold the house and acreage almost immediately to Major Isaac Dickson whose descendants kept the house well into the 20th century. (WG 58:381) Major Dickson was an officer in the Maryland Militia, appointed May 23, 1799 as aide-de-camp to Brig. Gen. Charles Ridgely (Md. Militia Appointment Bk #1, 1794-1804, BC, p.4., HR). He bought the house and lot around 1797, which he enlarged, establishing a store there during the War of 1812. He prospered; for he eventually owned considerable acreage in Baltimore County. Federal Assesment of 1798 lists him as owner of 265 Acres value \$670.00 as well as:

No. 3363, Isaac Dickson, Owner. Pt of Spring Garden 80 Perches...One new'd Log Dwelling House two story, 24 x 16...

As an upstanding citizen he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Baltimore County. He built a handsome brick addition to the Parrish log building c 1812. He had 10 children. He died in 1840 and his obituary was carried in the Sun May 27, 1840. (Marks. p. 146 and 208)

Two sons of the Major became doctors in Reisterstown: Dr. Louis Larsh Dickson who practiced in the town until 1852 and died a year later. Then Isaac Newton Dickson, who after the death of his first wife, returned from a practice in Talbot County and subsequently practiced in the town from 1852-1894. He was "a man and physician of quiet habits and tastes who had a wide acquaintance with medical men in the state and was highly respected by them all" (Dickson, Forward). His office was at 67 Main. In 1857, Isaac Dickson eventually acquired for \$1610 the "property commonly known as the residence or homestead of the late Dr. Louis Dickson containing 6 acres of land with the improvement of a two story dwelling and one stone house thereon" (HMF 19/545) (Marks. op.cit., p. 146-147)

Mrs. Marks notes in her book, that it is upon Dr. Dickson's manuscript "Early Days of Reisterstown and Vicinity" that more recent histories of the town have been based.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Continuation Sheet Isaac Dickson House
67-69 Main Street
Reisterstown, Maryland
Baltimore County

8 Significance Continued

From 1869 to 1934, the Dickson property stayed more or less in tact and Dickson descendants for the most part occupied the house. Blanche Hopkins Dickson 1863-1955 an unmarried daughter of the 2nd marriage lived there and a married daughter Fanny Virginia Thomas 1860-1883 also.

In 1934 Isaac Cockey Dickson, son of a third marriage and his sister Blanche Hopkins Dickson became the last Dickson heirs to own the property. In 1956, the house and 6.729 acres were sold to Dr. D.D. Caples (GLB 3031/288) an appropriate occurrence for Dr. Caples was as esteemed and loved by the citizenry of Reisterstown as was Dr. Isaac N. Dickson. Both served their community's health well and with great devotion.

Upon Dr. Caples death in 1975, the property remained in the hands of his widow.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lillian B. Marks, Reisters Desire (Baltimore, 1975)
Land Records, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Md

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.729 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, Jr A.I.A.

NAME / TITLE Cornelia M. Ives, Project Coordinator

ORGANIZATION Historic Reisterstown, Md Inc

DATE

August, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 430 Main Street

TELEPHONE

833-3078 (Ms Ives)

CITY OR TOWN Reisterstown,

STATE

Md 21136

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 1278

Isaac Dickson House

67-69 Main St - Reisterstown

Carol Pollack

4-77

West.