

BRICK DUPLEX

A mid-19th century brick duplex which has been converted into a shop with apartments above. As such it is one of the very few buildings in the heart of Towson still being used for residential purposes. The 1877 Hopkins Atlas of Baltimore County shows only four duplexes in Towson. One of these duplexes is stone, two are frame, and this building on Allegheny Ave. is made of brick.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Brick Duplex, 17 Allegheny Ave.

AND/OR COMMON

Amy Hiss House, 17 Allegheny Ave.

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

17 Allegheny Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

Baltimore County

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

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

John B. Hiss

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

17 Allegheny Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

3402 County Courts Building

Liber #: 3673

Folio #: 470

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>Fall, 1977</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This pre-1877 building is located near the center of Towson, Maryland on the south side of Allegheny Avenue. The main body of its T-shaped faces the street on an east-to-west axis. It is two-and-one-half stories, four bays wide, two bays deep, and is flanked by two interior end chimneys. The south (back) extension is of the same height, has an inside end chimney and is two bays wide by two bays deep. A two story wooden porch covers most of the south facade. All exterior walls are made of common bond, red brick with a random placement of glazed brick and one header course for every seven streather rows. The building sits on a low stone foundation with no attempt at coursing.

The bable end roof has deep eaves (about fifteen inches wide); its soffit is made up of four to five strips of horizontal boards. On the north facade, there is one central pedimentaed dormer (an early twentieth century addition typical of Towson). It is decorated with both imbricateu and regular square shingles and contains two casement windows of six-over-six lights. In each bay of the first and second floors (except for the north and south facades of the first floor) there is a double hung sach window with six-over-six lights decorated by a flat arch. Flanking each chimney, there are small two-over-two light attic windows.

An early photograph indicates that before the modern addition to the first floor north facade, there existed two front doors in the inner bays. Originally, the house was a duplex, divided north-to-south by a central wall (now partially removed). The same floor pattern was repated on both sides on all floors. The large living room space of the front room contains a very simple designed fireplace. The rectangular opening is flanked by readed pilasters and a plain molding forms the cornice. (Because of its narrow shaft, it may have served as a flue-chimney.) Extending towards the back of the house, there is a small south wing which may have been the kitchen (no fixtures remain). Its side door which gave access to the back yard has been bricked up.

Throughout the house, the walls and ceilings are of painted plaster, and the doors and windows are trimmed in common molding with an interior bead. Underneath the new flooring, the original floor boards remain intact. Only the east side's central stairway still exists. It is a double-flight,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

string stairway enclosed by tongue-and-groove paneling. Leading to the basement is a slender, six-paneled door on which is a metal box and porcelain knob.

Due to alterations, the second floor is only accessible by the west stairs of the exterior two-tiered porch. Its ground level is enclosed with lattice work below tongue-and-groove siding. The second story gallery is railed with simple square balusters and is supported by four slender doric columns. The interior of the west side of the second floor is composed of one small room (above the kitchen wing) and a larger room (over the main structure). A kitchen and a bathroom now take up part of this space.

The top or half floor is also divided equally over the main building, but shares the same attic space over the southern wing. In the attic, the original primary rafters are mitered and rest upon square plates (approximately three to four inches thick). Iron tie-rods set one foot in from the plates were observed on each side of the roof. Cut nails were observed in the purlins and split wood shingles under the modern roofing.

The basement is under the main building only but there are two small storage rooms on the south side. In the center, a thick stone wall runs east-to-west and supports 19" X 3" wooden joists. These joists are vertically sawn while other materials appear to be circularly sawn. On the south-east corner of this building a concrete-block room has been added without disturbing the original walls.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is one of Towson's earlier structures, built during the town's sudden growth between the 1850's and 1880's. According to a detailed 1898 map of Towson (1), brick construction appears to have been an important building technique of that period. Not only is this building one of the last buildings left from that period in its immediate vicinity, but it is also one of the few 19 century brick residences surviving in Towson. This building (and one other on Allegheny Avenue) was designed and executed as a duplex as seen in a late 19 century photograph (2) and a 1877 map (3). This illustrates the planned attempt of creating a more economic use of space. Recently, alterations have been made to its first floor for commercial purposes; although, despite these changes, much of the house's original fabric remains. It serves as a visual document to the architecture and life style of late 19 century Towson as well as a visual relief and pleasure from the anonymity of its present streetscape.

Original and Subsequent Owners

This house is recorded on an 1877 real estate map (4) as having been the property of Mrs. M.A. Shealy. She owned a lot of land around Towson and when she died in 1882, she willed some of it, including this property, to August Loose. When he died in 1891, he willed the house to his wife, Eliza Loose. After her death in 1910, the property then descended to her daughter, Mary C. Loose and to her daughter's husband, William F. Loose. The Looses sold the land in 1925 to Hiram W. Brown and his wife. The property then passed to Mildred G. Leonard who sold it to the present owner, John B. Hiss, in 1960.

Footnotes:

1. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland; G.W. Bromley and Co.,
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Footnotes

1. Philadelphia, 1898
2. The photograph is in the possession of John B. Hiss
3. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland; G.M. Hopkins; Philadelphia, 1877
4. Ibid

Amy Hiss House - Significance

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2. The photograph is in the possession of John B. Hiss
3. Atlas of Naltimore County, Maryland; G.M. Hopkins; Philadelphia, 1877
4. Ibid

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Primary sources at the Baltimore County Court House,
Land Records of Baltimore County

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 42' X 150'

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attachment

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jill Storms/ Student Surveyor

WAYNE L. NIELD, II
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC. December 1977

ORGANIZATION

Historic Towson, Inc.

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

120 Allegheny Avenue

TELEPHONE

823-3588

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

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

TITLE SEARCH FOR BRICK DUPLEX, #17 ALLEGANY AVE.

Liber 3673, Folio 470 February 16, 1960
Grantor: Mildred E. Leonard
Grantee: John B. Hiss, Nancy H. Crohin, Laura H. Karl

Liber 615, Folio 173 May 1, 1925
Grantor: Mary C. Loose & William F. Loose
Grantee: Hiram W. Brown & Alverda S. Brown

Will- W.J.P. 16/ 335 February 12, 1912
Eliza Loose
Property given to Mary C. Loose

Will- W.J.S. 11/ 318 January 10, 1899
August Loose
Property given to wife

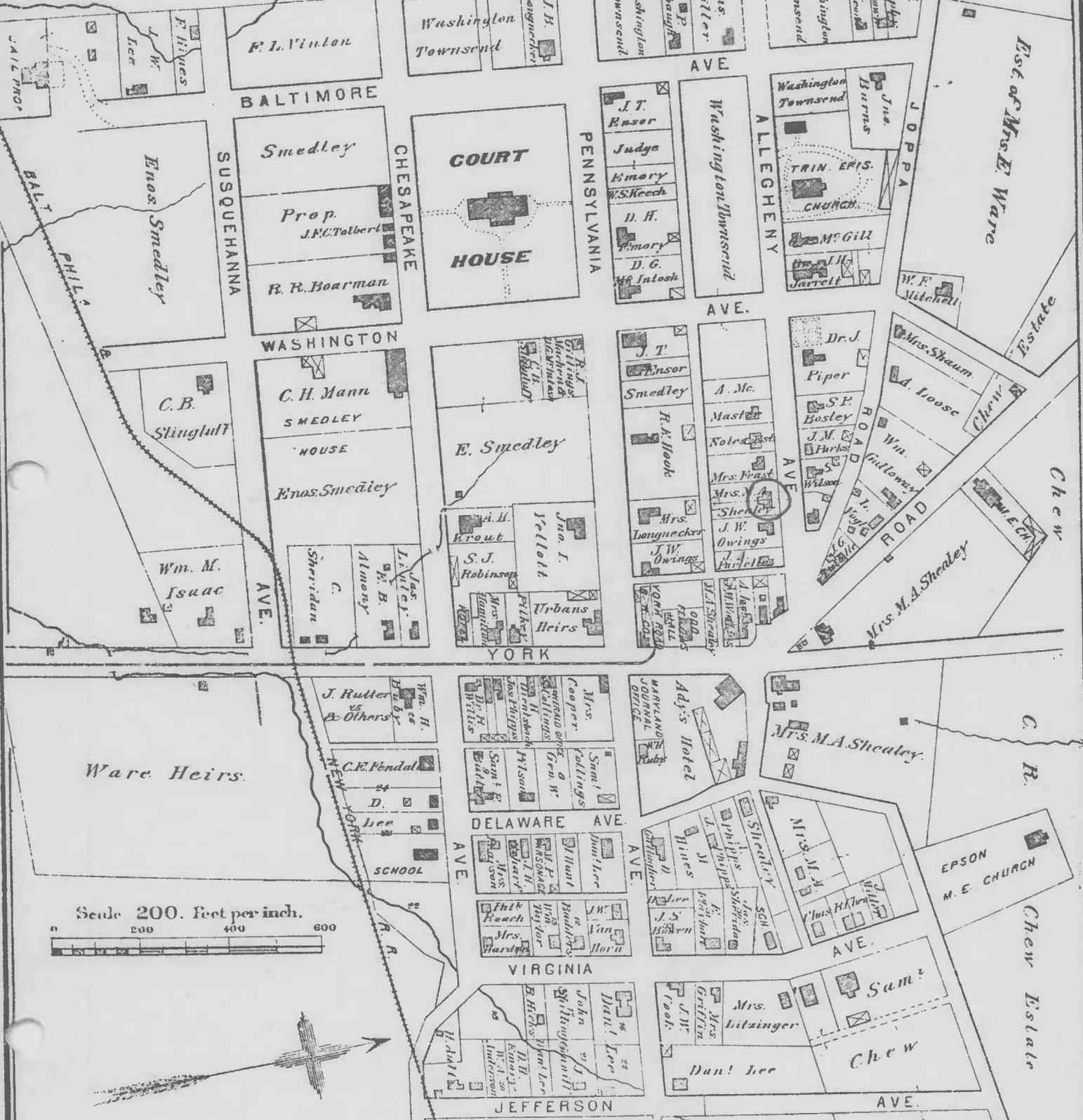
Liber 129, Folio 231 April 25, 1882
Grantor: Mary E. Shealey
Grantee: Daniel Camneron

1451
BA-1445

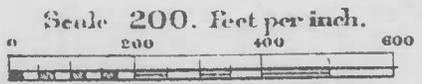
PLAN OF TOWSONTOWN.

TOWSONTOWN.
Real Estate Agent.
H. L. BOWEN,
Surveyors and Engineers.
WHEELER & McLANE.

Dr. Bosley



Ware Heirs.



Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1877 by G. M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.



BA-1451

BRICK DUPLEX
17 ALLEGHENY AVE.
S.W.

W. NIELD

WINTER 77-78



BA-1451

BRICK DUPLEX
17 ALLEGHENY AVE,
N.W.

W. NIELD

WINTER 77-78