

418 YORK ROAD

That Towson had an important commercial center during the Victorian era is proven by the many buildings along York Road which exhibit physical features of that period. Many of the buildings such as this one at # 418 were originally designed to have a shop on the first level with a living space above.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Dientsbach House

AND/OR COMMON Bixby's Cafe

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 418 York Road

CITY, TOWN Towson VICINITY OF _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT _____

STATE Maryland COUNTY _____

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input 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 checked="" 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME James Randolph LeFaivre Telephone #: 828-5485

STREET & NUMBER 808 Dartmoor Rd.

CITY, TOWN Lutherville VICINITY OF _____ STATE, zip code Maryland 21093

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. New Courts Building Liber #: 5478

STREET & NUMBER _____ Folio #: 295

CITY, TOWN Towson STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE _____

DATE _____

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS _____

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____

____FEDERAL ____STATE ____COUNTY ____LOCAL

BA-1462

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE Spring, 1978

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

See Attachment

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

That Towson had an important commercial center during the Victorian era is proven by the many buildings along York Road which exhibit physical features of that period. Many of the buildings such as this one at # 418 were originally designed to have a shop on the first level with a living space above.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

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

WAYNE L. NIELD, II
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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

WAYNE L. NIELD, II
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

Description for 418 York Road (Bixby's Cafe)

The buildings on both sides of York Road are row structures. The only facade which can clearly be described is the street facade and the back facade.

The west or main facade of the building is three stories high. The building rests on a coarsed stone foundation and has been covered with clapboard siding on the south facade. The west facade has been covered with simulated board and batten. This is probably an alteration since the south facade is clapboard and it appears to have the most original material remaining.

The fenestration in the west facade has been altered. The first floor is composed of a 48-light casement window, the second story of a 60-light casement, and the third story has two 2/2 sash windows. Above the 60-light casement window there are scroll-like bracketed eaves. They appear to be alterations. On the roof, there are also bracketed eaves which appear to be original. Of interest here is the fact that the eaves are only placed on the north, south, and west facades of the building.

The south facade of the building has the most original features. Beyond the main three story block of the building becomes a two story projection. The original clapboard siding is still apparent as witnessed by the square headed nails. Some of the siding has been removed, but one can see the cut nails and vertically sawn studs.

On the south facade there is evidence of a covered staircase, as well as regular fenestration. A cornice extends over this staircase, but it does not line up to where a window was originally placed. Also, a door underneath this staircase has been covered over with plywood.

The east or back facade is three stories high and two bays wide. Again, the main block is covered with clapboard siding. The only visible window on this facade is 6/6 sash. Beyond this main block there are consecutive additions of cinder block construction. Since the building has been converted into a restaurant, the additions are necessary.

The north facade can not be determined because of the closeness of this row of buildings. However, between Growin' Green and this building (418 York Road), there is a cinder block hallway. Growin' Green uses this hallway for storage space.

418 York Road is entered through a small entryway with a pressed metal ceiling that incorporates a floral pattern. There is one 3/4" tongue and groove panelling at the lower level of the walls. Beyond this entryway the tongue and groove wainscotting has a chair rail.

Because the building has been converted into a restaurant many alterations have been made. The designer, Lance Cooper, has done an excellent job of re-creating an early twentieth century cafe. According to Cooper, he copied ideas for some of the interior features, and then checked around the country with wrecking companies for the pieces that were of interest to him. For example, the wainscotting was brought in from Virginia and the pressed metal ceilings came from Long Island.

The second floor of the cafe is a 4' wide loft at the east end, which widens out at the west end to provide for about six small tables. The most interesting feature here is the egg and dart pattern of the pressed metal ceiling. The wainscotting is carried over onto this floor also.

The basement of the building is relatively small. The height of the ceiling is only 5½' from the floor to the joists in the ceiling. The basement is 11½' in width and 55' in length. Uncovered rubble shoulder and pier buttressing is apparent on both sides of the basement. There is a large chimney support in the west end of the basement which is 2' deep and 5' in width. From the evidence of this chimney support one can assume that originally fireplaces have been removed.

Title Search for 418 York Road

BA-1462

Liber 5478, Folio 295 September 19, 1974
grantor-Benjamin and Edna Gorfine
grantee-James Randolph LeFaivre

Liber 5478, Folio 297 September 19, 1974
James Randolph LeFaivre-mortgagor
Benjamin and Edna Gorfine-mortgagee

Liber 4705, Folio 159 December 12, 1966
grantor-Third Parties Inc.
grantee-Benjamin and Edna Gorfine

Liber 1058, Folio 313 April 10, 1939
grantor-Philip H. Sheridan
grantee-Benjamin and Edna Gorfine

Liber 1058, Folio 314 April 14, 1939
Benjamin and Edna Gorfine-mortgagor
Philip Hurwitz-mortgagee

Liber 645, Folio 60 May 18, 1927
grantor-J. George Dientsbach
grantee-Philip H. Sheridan

Liber 74, Folio 252 March 9, 1872
grantor-Lot W. Ridgely and Georgie Ridgely(wife)
grantee-Henry Dientsbach

Liber 68, Folio 467 December 7, 1870 *the following are all
Mary Payne, William Payne, John Payne, leaseholds
Emma Payne, Samuel F. Butter and Mary
Butter, Nelson Cooper and Jemima Cooper,
John Rutter and Maria Rutter, David M.
McFarland and William McCullough-executors of
David McConky-grantors
Henry Dientsbach-grantee

Liber 59, Folio 79 December 16, 1867
Benjamin and Mary Payne, John and Maria Rutter, David and
Sarah B. McConky to Henry Dientsbach

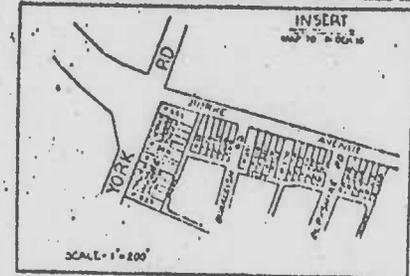
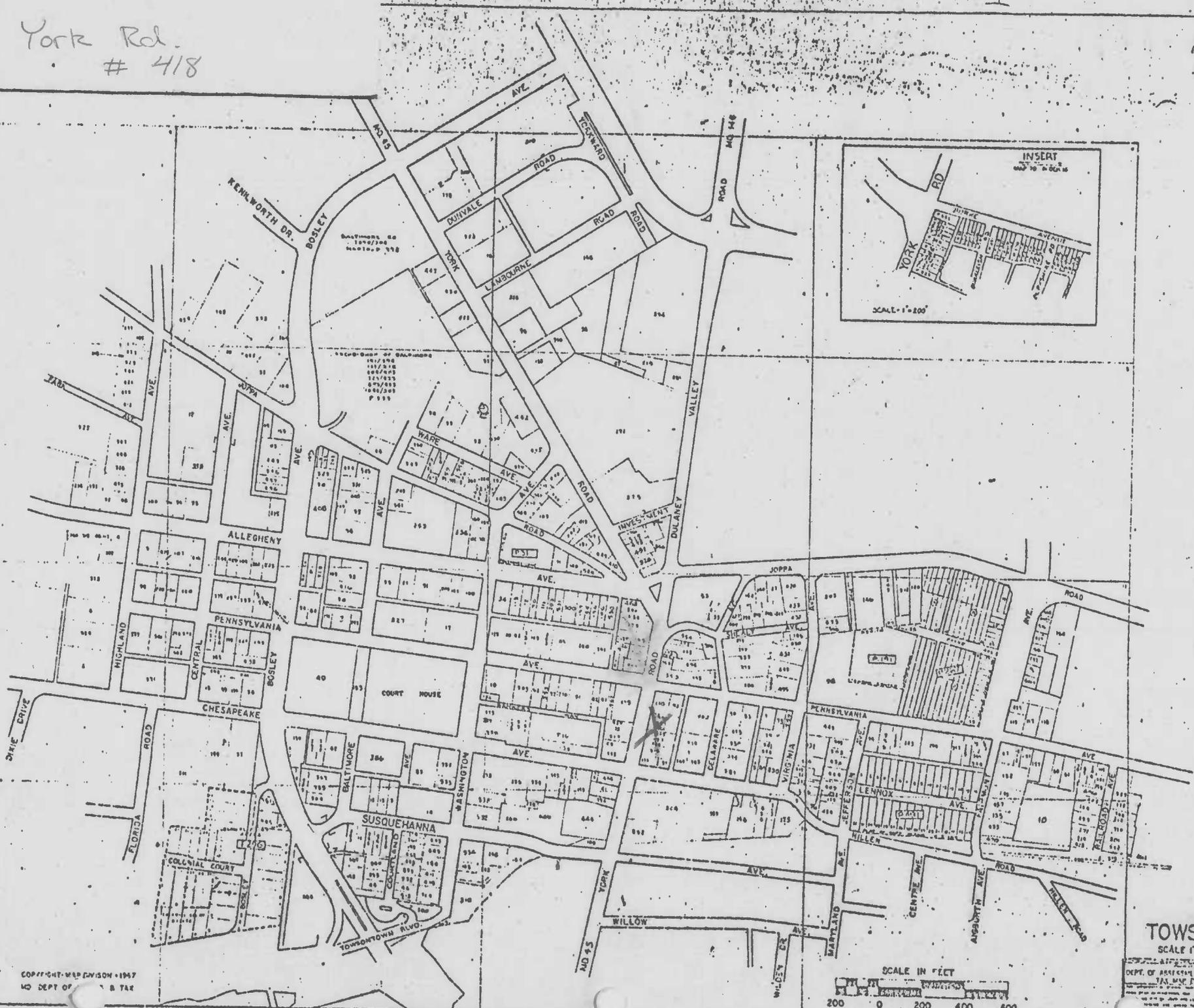
Liber 49, Folio 230 June 13, 1866
George Steiber to Henry Dientsbach

Liber 27, Folio 406 December 27, 1859
Benjamin and Mary Payne, John and Maria Rutter, David and
Sarah B. McConky to John Thomas

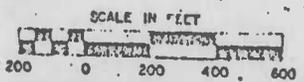
Beginning for the same at a nail set on the East side of York Road at the beginning of the land which by deed dated April 10, 1939- running thence and binding on the first line of the said land South 75° 19 minutes West and passing over two pipes and a cross cut found on line, in all, 152.44 feet to nail set in the center line of a 16' alley thence binding on the centerline of said alley and on a part of the second line of said face of the wall of the building, erected on the Southern portion of the whole lot of which this description is a part, thence leaving the centerline of said 16' alley and running for a line of division across said land end to end along the North face of said wall North intersect the last line north 18°, 55 minutes East 20.56' to the place of beginning known as 418 York Road 0.0705 acres.

York Rd.
418

BA-1462



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MD DEPT OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXES



TOWSON
SCALE 1"=200'

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
TAX MAP DIVISION
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
1947

MAP
7C



BA-1462

420 and # 418 York Rd.
W. FACADE.

W. NIELD
9/78



BA-1462

#420 and #418 YORK RD.
W. FACADE-DETAIL

W. NIELD
9/78



BA-1462

418 YORK RD.
W. FACADE.

W. NIELD
9/78