BA-1512

STIEBER'S GROCERY

Photographs and public records document the fact that there has been a combination store/residence on this site since the 1870's. The present structure was probably built sometime shortly after 1878, when fire destroyed the entire block. Family history, supported by deeds, states that three generations of the Stieber family have operated a grocery in this building. George Stieber, a German immigrant, was a shoemaker and it was he who opened the grocery store c. 1889.

BA- 1512
PAGE #

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Stieber's (George H. Stieber Company)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
531 York Rd.

CITY, TOWN
Towson

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
9th

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	X COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
George H. Stieber Inc.

Telephone #: 823-4500

STREET & NUMBER
531 York Rd.

CITY, TOWN
Towson

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Md. 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 5510
Folio #: 431

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Baltimore Co. Courthouse, New Courts Building

STREET & NUMBER
Washington Ave.

CITY, TOWN
Towson

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

BA-1512

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE Winter, 77/78
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

At the present time, this grocery store is a 90° setback corresponding to the fact that the intersection of Alleghany, Joppa, York, and Duleny Valley Rds. form an obtuse angle. Though now covered with a modern storefront on the first level, the street facade of this 2 story hipped roof brick structure, being the only clearly visible facade, shows the influence of the Italianate style in the tall 2/2 light sash windows, the vertical thrust of the building, the apparent high ceilings, and the bracketed eaves. An interior end-chimney exits the roof at the north facade.

The most notable decorative feature of this building are the bracketed eaves which are among the most decorative and ornate on the block. The ornate pattern is achieved through the use of negative space. Attached to a wide entableture below a deep cornice, the brackets alternate, with 3 larger brackets interspersed with 4 smaller ones.

The modern storefront now covers what originally appeared to have been a duplex built in a staggered manner so as to maximize the available street-front space. Though now joined by the storefront, the separation can be seen at the top story and also in an 1898 photograph in the store. Upon examination of this photograph, it shows that the two sections of the building form an L shape, the southernmost part of which projects out beyond the other. Because the southern section has a large single projecting bay and a 2 pane door, it is conjectured that this front section was the store, the northern section and perhaps the the back and upstairs of the southern one were then, the dwelling. The fact that the 1898 atlas is reputable, the fact that it shows the nortern section as not as deep as the other would indicate that this was in fact true.

In these 2 story brick buildings, which are each 2 bays wide and 2 bays deep, the Italianate influence is apparent in the tall 2/2 light sash windows and bracketed eaves. These original brackets were the same size yet gave as ornate a facade as the present ones. The interior end chimney still visible now, also appeared in this picture.

On the street facade, the fenestration was regular on both sections. The shop door is located at the northern bay and had 2 panes and a transom. As was mentioned earlier, the first story window projects 6 panes in the front with 2 panes on either side. The house had a 4 paneled door, the top 2 of which were arched; it also had a transom. The 2/2 light sash windows were surrounded by louvered shutters and supported by vertical bricks in a flat segmental arch which gave the facade a very tidy appearance. Also enhancing this facade was the cyma reversa cornice moulding and wooden moulding attached to the brick below the frieze.

As far as the interior is concerned, the important structural details appeared in the cellar and enclosed rear section, the rest was completely altered. In the back one can see the exterior of 3 buildings, one of which was brick, one plain, and the other beveled clapboards. The Lshaped cellar containing a 12 ft. E wing is supported by uncoursed stone walls with a whitewashed 2X8 circularly sawn floor joist and cut nails. The N wall is brick, containing a windwo, the S wall is stone. Incorprated into the rear room is a rear porch with toung and groove ceiling and a turned post, and a garage with rock-faced formstone.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

BA-1512

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	X COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	X COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES building on lot in 1876 but rebuilt after or in 1878 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This store is significant to Towson not only in its obvious busi-importance, but also as it, included as a part of this block of original York Rd. stores, has the ability to document Towson as a country-turned-commercial town. Towson grew as a courthouse town after 1854 as can be seen from the houses and offices which surround the courthouse square. But even before the county seat was moved to Towson, it had established itself as a crossroads community, serving farmers and craftsmen on their journeys to and from Baltimore City. Many businesses emerged at the intersection of York, Joppa, and Duleny Valley Rds. As little original fabric is now visible, this building is more important as a document of the specific life styles of these shop owners rather than its individual architectural styles.

In contrast to the courthouse square families, these people usually lived in the upstairs and operated businesses in the downstairs of the building. They had small, well-kept backyards. The Baltimore County Directory listed the occupation of the members of each professional and businessman in each town in the county. In 1879, the following men were: George Stieber-shoemaker, Louis Held-baker and confectioner, Loose-tailor; all of whom lived on and had businesses on the crossroads. On the other hand, attornies Grason, Emory, and Ensor each lived in houses that surrounded the courthouse.

The present building was probably built right after the fire in Jan. 1878. From the assesment records, on the lot stood a frame store and dwelling in 1876. In 1896, on a smaller lot there was a brick store and dwelling house. Also found in the assesment records in 1876 was listed stock leather, which supports the Directory, listing Stieber as a shoemaker.

In an interview with the present owner, Fred Stieber, it was learned that his grandfather, who was originally from Germany, had in fact been a shoemaker. In or about 1889, his father had changed the shop into a grocery store. Mr. Stieber recalled an interesting story that his father and Louis Held had exchanged buildings since Held ran a bakery and the flour bags were so heavy that he needed to be closer to the alley so as he wouldn't have to carry them as far to his store. The title search indicated that there were many transactions between Held and Stieber concerning this piece of property.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

BA-1512

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

WAYNE L. NIELD, II
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

NAME / TITLE
W.E.Anne Burton (for Wayne Nield)

ORGANIZATION
Goucher College (Historic Towson INc.)

DATE
1/25/78

STREET & NUMBER
Duleny Valley Rd.

TELEPHONE
296-5493

CITY OR TOWN
Towson

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

PS-1108

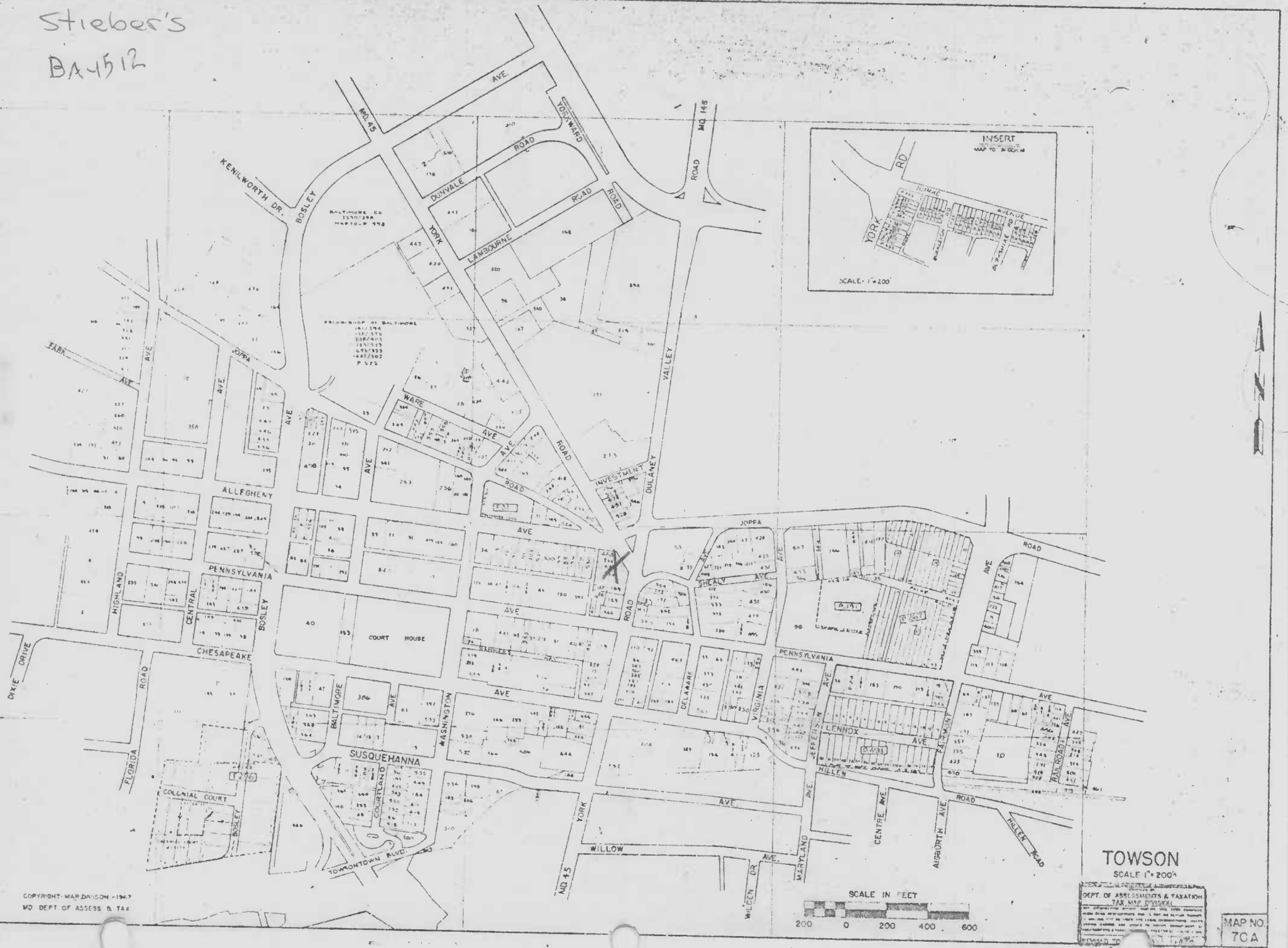
BA-1512

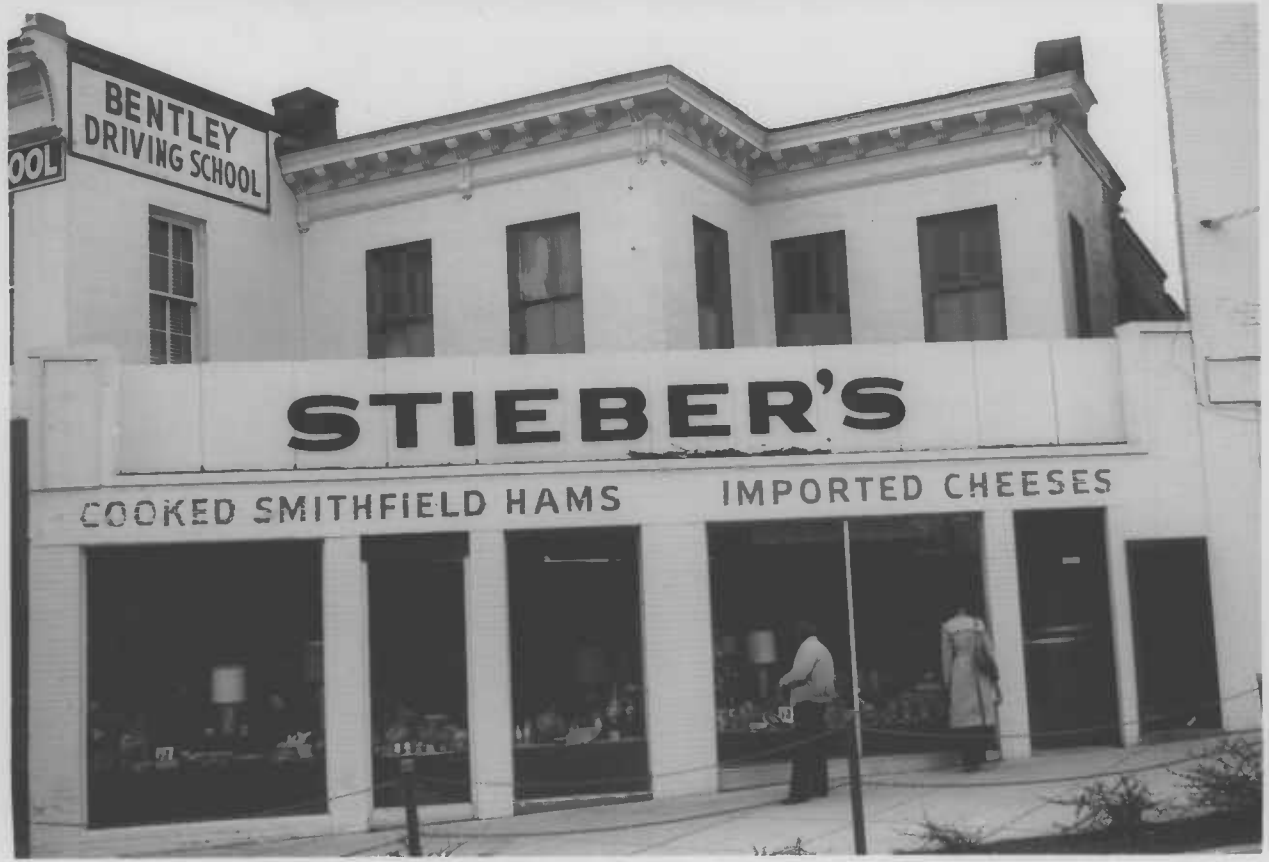
Title Search

liber	folio	
5510	431	Dorothy S. Ewell and Frederick W. Stieber (personal rep. of estate of Sophia E. Stieber)-- to--Frederick W. Stieber. 2/7/1975
w/r 28	43	George H. Stieber--to--wife Sophia 2/24/1933
355	389	Annie A. Stieber--to--George H. Stieber 2/3/1910
355	386	Louis W. Held--to--Annie Stieber 1/28/1910
119	355	Samuel Collings--to--Louis Held 11/13/1880
107	487	Louis Held--to--Annie Stieber(lease) 6/22/1878
48	328	Washington Townsend--to--George Stieber (lease) 4/23/1866
40	105	Philina Smedley--to--Washington Townsend 3/15/1864
34	348	Enos Smedley--to--Philina Smedley 5/12/1862
19	311	Enos Smedley--to--Ann Hickman(lease) 11/9/1857
9	222	Grafton Bosley--to--Enos Smedley 7/24/1854

Stieber's

BA-512




BENTLEY
DRIVING SCHOOL
OOL
STIEBER'S
COOKED SMITHFIELD HAMS
IMPORTED CHEESES

BA-1512

STIEBER'S
N. E.

W. NIELD
WINTER 77-78