

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-1004

305 Lennox Avenue

East Towson, Baltimore County

1875-1890

Private

The dwelling at 305 Lennox Avenue was constructed between 1890 and 1905 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures.

This wood frame Gothic Revival single-family residence fronts south to Lennox Avenue and is three bays wide with a central entrance and two-and-a-half stories high. The house has a side gable roof, a central cross gable on the façade, and an L-shaped footprint. The entrance is comprised of a single wood glass and panel door with a one light transom. The building has one interior stretcher-bond brick chimney and turned cornices in each gable. Each of the windows is 2/2 double-hung wood sash with a molded wood surround. There is an arched 2/2 double-hung wood sash window in the cross gable. A one-story wood frame porch with a hipped roof covers the three bays on the façade. The porch is supported with turned posts and features scroll-sawn brackets and a continuous balustrade. The house is covered with vinyl siding, the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles, and it has a dry stone coursed foundation. Located in the angle of the ell is a two-story shed-roof addition with a rock faced concrete block foundation.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 1004

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other

2. Location

street and number 305 Lennox Avenue __ not for publication

city, town Baltimore __ vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Virginia T. Porter

street and number 4321 Alison Jane Drive telephone Not Available

city, town Kennesaw state GA zip code 30144

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 11610 folio 145

city, town Towson tax map 70 tax parcel 491 tax ID number 906450180

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
				1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 1004

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This Gothic Revival single-family residence fronts south to Lennox Avenue and dates from between 1875 and 1890. The wood frame house is three bays wide with a central entrance and two-and-a-half stories high. The house has a side gable roof, a central cross gable on the façade, and an L-shaped footprint. The entrance is comprised of a single wood glass and panel door with a one light transom. The building has one interior stretcher-bond brick chimney and turned cornices in each gable. Each of the windows is 2/2 double-hung wood sash with a molded wood surround. There is an arched 2/2 double-hung wood sash window in the cross gable. A one-story wood frame porch with a hipped roof covers the three bays on the façade. The porch is supported with turned posts and features scroll-sawn brackets and a continuous balustrade. The house is covered with vinyl siding, the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles, and it has a dry stone coursed foundation. Located in the angle of the ell is a two-story shed-roof addition with a rock faced concrete block foundation.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 1004

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates	1875 ca.-present	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1875-1890		

Evaluation for:

National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The residence at 305 Lennox Avenue, constructed between 1875 and 1890, is an important contribution to the community of East Towson. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 1004

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.
-

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .20 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Towson Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The dwelling is located at 305 Lennox Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70, Parcel 491 since its construction in the last quarter of the 19th century.

11. Form Prepared by

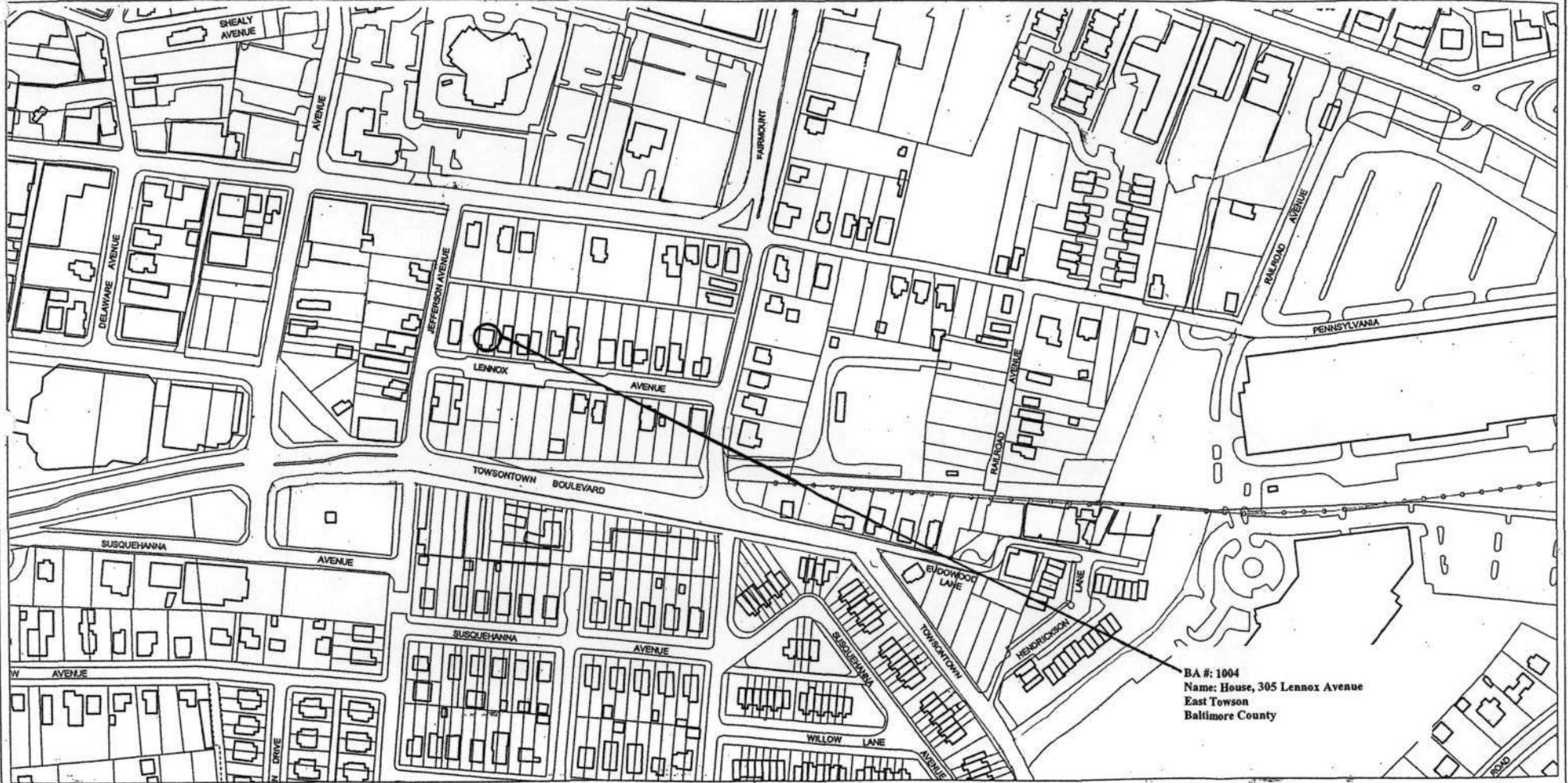
name/title	K. Baynard, R. Weidlich, J. Bunting, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	November 5, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

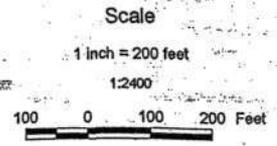
East Towson: Planimetric Data



BA #: 1004
 Name: House, 305 Lennox Avenue
 East Towson
 Baltimore County



Prepared by:
 Baltimore County Office of Planning
 401 Bosley Avenue
 Towson, Maryland 21204
 June, 2001



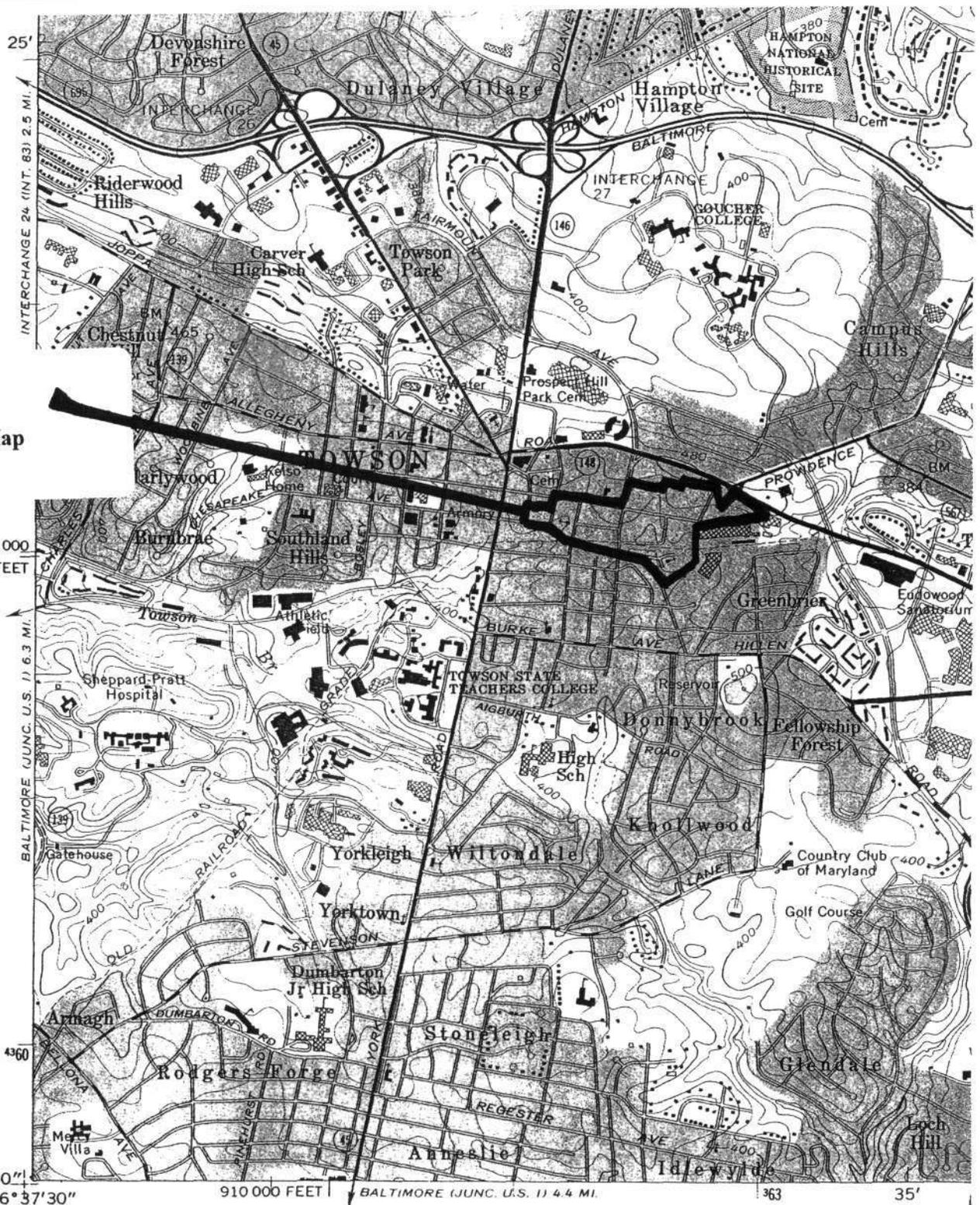
Legend

Paved Roads	Study Area Boundary	Hydrographic Features
Unpaved Roads	Buildings	Vegetation
Paved Parking / Driveways		

Data Sources:
 Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
 Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
 Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)

Coordinate System:
 Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum
 Elevations in Feet: NAVD88 Vertical Datum

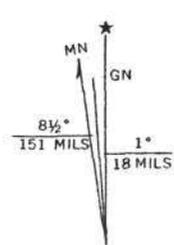
Date of Data Capture: March 1996
 Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'



BA-1004
 East Towson
 Towson, Maryland
 Towson USGS Quad Map
 Baltimore County

(BALTIMORE WEST)
 5662 (SW)

Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland
 Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps
 Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
 taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 18, shown in blue
 Red tint indicates areas in which only
 landmark buildings are shown
 Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
 aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not
 field checked
 Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA-1004

HOUSE, 305 LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

VIEW LOOKING NORTH, SOUTH ELEVATION

1 of 3

TRACERIES, 10/2001



BA-1004

HOUSE, 305 LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

VIEW LOOKING EAST, WEST ELEVATION

2 of 3

TRACERIES, 10/2001



BA-1004

HOUSE, 305 LENNOX AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

MD-SHPD

~~NORTH~~ ELEVATION, VIEW LOOKING SOUTH

3 of 3

TRACERIES, 10/2001

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Foote House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

305 Lennox Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

COUNTY

Baltimore 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"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Thomas & Nancy Foote

STREET & NUMBER

156 North St.

CITY, TOWN

Seaford

Telephone #:

STATE, zip code

Delaware 19973

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

Liber #:

Folio #:

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

BA-1004 - 305 Lennox

c. 1905 - 1915

A cross-gable facade predicts the center-hall, two-room plan of this two-story frame house. Arched gable windows and a nicely finished porch are distinguishing elements here.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

305 Lennox

This two-story frame house consists of a front section with east-west gable roof and central cross-gable, a perpendicular section running to the north and an addition running alongside the rear section, filling the northwest corner. The house is covered with grey asphalt imitation stone panels. The gables are covered in white asbestos shingles. A stone foundation supports the building. The windows contain 2/2 sash. The gable windows have arched tops, The hip-roofed front porch is enclosed to waist height, and supported turned posts. The plan of the front section is of a central stair hall with a room on either side. The four-panel front door has a transom.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1004

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 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

The Foote House was constructed on what was formerly a large tract of land which was owned by the Benjamin Payne family. The same tract of land was later conveyed to Lester Maddox and subsequently to John Yellot who divided the tract into smaller parcels of land which was later purchased and developed residentially by and for Afro-American people around 1905. The Foote family has purportedly owned this particular dwelling since its development. The Foote family was listed in the 1870 Voters Registration record and in the 1870 Census Tract for Baltimore County Ninth District, indicating that the family has existed since that period. Presently this house is being leased by the Morris family.

Bromley Atlas 1915 Towson Ninth District

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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

NAME / TITLE

Marcus Pollock; M. Stinson, architect

ORGANIZATION

Committee to Save East Towson

DATE

6/30/77

STREET & NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake

TELEPHONE

823-8870

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.

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



BA-1004
The Foote House
305 Lennox
Towson, Md.
South

Merry Stinson
1977