

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-1049**

**404 East Pennsylvania Avenue**

**East Towson, Baltimore County**

**Circa 1900**

**Private**

The dwelling at 404 East Pennsylvania Avenue was constructed circa 1900 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 descendants 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 19<sup>th</sup> century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 twin dwelling is two-and-a-half-stories high with a side-gable roof employing molded turned cornices. The first story on the façade is four bays wide with an entrance on each end. Both entrances have a single-leaf, one-light and wood panel door. Across the full width of the façade is a shed-roof wood frame porch supported with chamfered wood posts, a continuous wood frame balustrade, and corner brackets. There are two window bays on both the first and second story, and they each have square-edged wood sills. Two of the façade windows are 6/6 double-hung wood sash and appear original. The remaining windows are replacement 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash. Two interior stretcher-bond brick chimneys can be seen on the rear elevation. The dwelling, re-clad with vinyl siding, stands on a solid poured concrete foundation and the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. There is a one-story shed-roof addition constructed on the rear elevation with a two-bay-wide second-story shed roof addition.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 1049

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other

## 2. Location

street and number 404 E. Pennsylvania Avenue \_\_ not for publication

city, town Baltimore \_\_ vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name Luz Elena Ampudia-Kordell

street and number 404 E. Pennsylvania Avenue telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21286-5408

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 14532 folio 202

city, town Towson tax map 70A tax parcel 132 tax ID number 902955410

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

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. BA- 1049

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

Constructed circa 1900, this twin dwelling located at 404 East Pennsylvania Avenue is two-and-a-half-stories high with a side-gable roof employing molded turned cornices. The first story on the façade is four bays wide with an entrance on each end. Both entrances have a single-leaf, one-light and wood panel door. Across the full width of the façade is a shed-roof wood frame porch supported with chamfered wood posts, a continuous wood frame balustrade, and corner brackets. There are two window bays on both the first and second story, and they each have square-edged wood sills. Two of the façade windows are 6/6 double-hung wood sash and appear original. The remaining windows are replacement 1/1 double-hung vinyl sash. Two interior stretcher-bond brick chimneys can be seen on the rear elevation. The dwelling, re-clad with vinyl siding, stands on a solid poured concrete foundation and the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. There is a one-story shed-roof addition constructed on the rear elevation with a two-bay-wide second-story shed roof addition.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 1049

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** 1900 ca.-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** circa 1900

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 house at 404 East Pennsylvania Avenue was constructed circa 1900 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. East Towson has made a significant contribution to 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 19<sup>th</sup> century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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. Several of the freestanding structures in East Towson are twin dwellings, surreptitiously providing multiple-family housing on narrow rectangular building lots typically occupied by single-family houses. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1049

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*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.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property .11 Acre

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The house is located at 404 East Pennsylvania Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 132 since its construction circa 1900.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	R. Weidlich, K. Baynard, J. Bunting, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	November 20, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

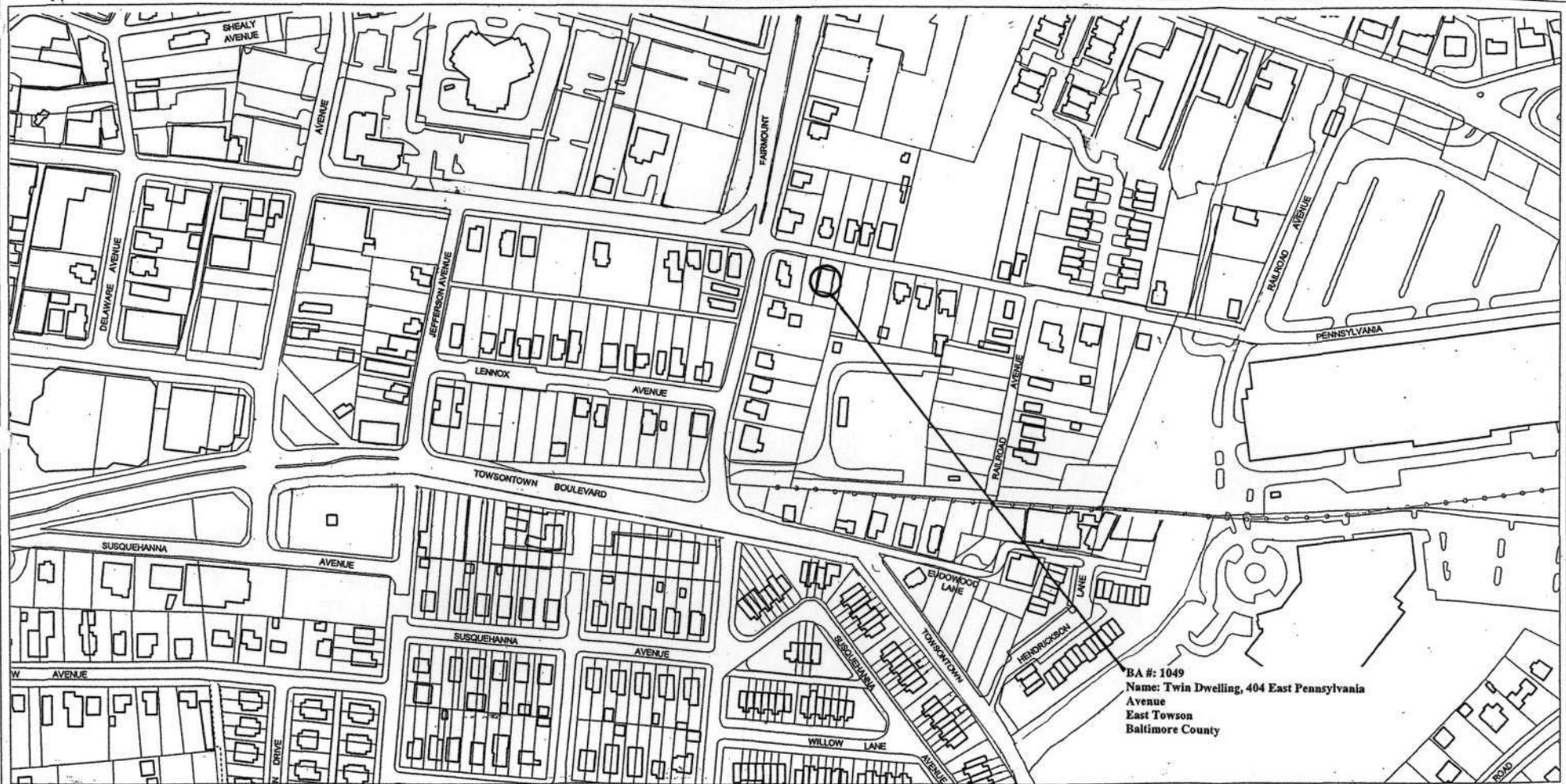
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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

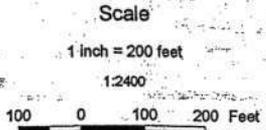
# East Towson: Planimetric Data



BA #: 1049  
 Name: Twin Dwelling, 404 East Pennsylvania Avenue  
 East Towson  
 Baltimore County



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



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

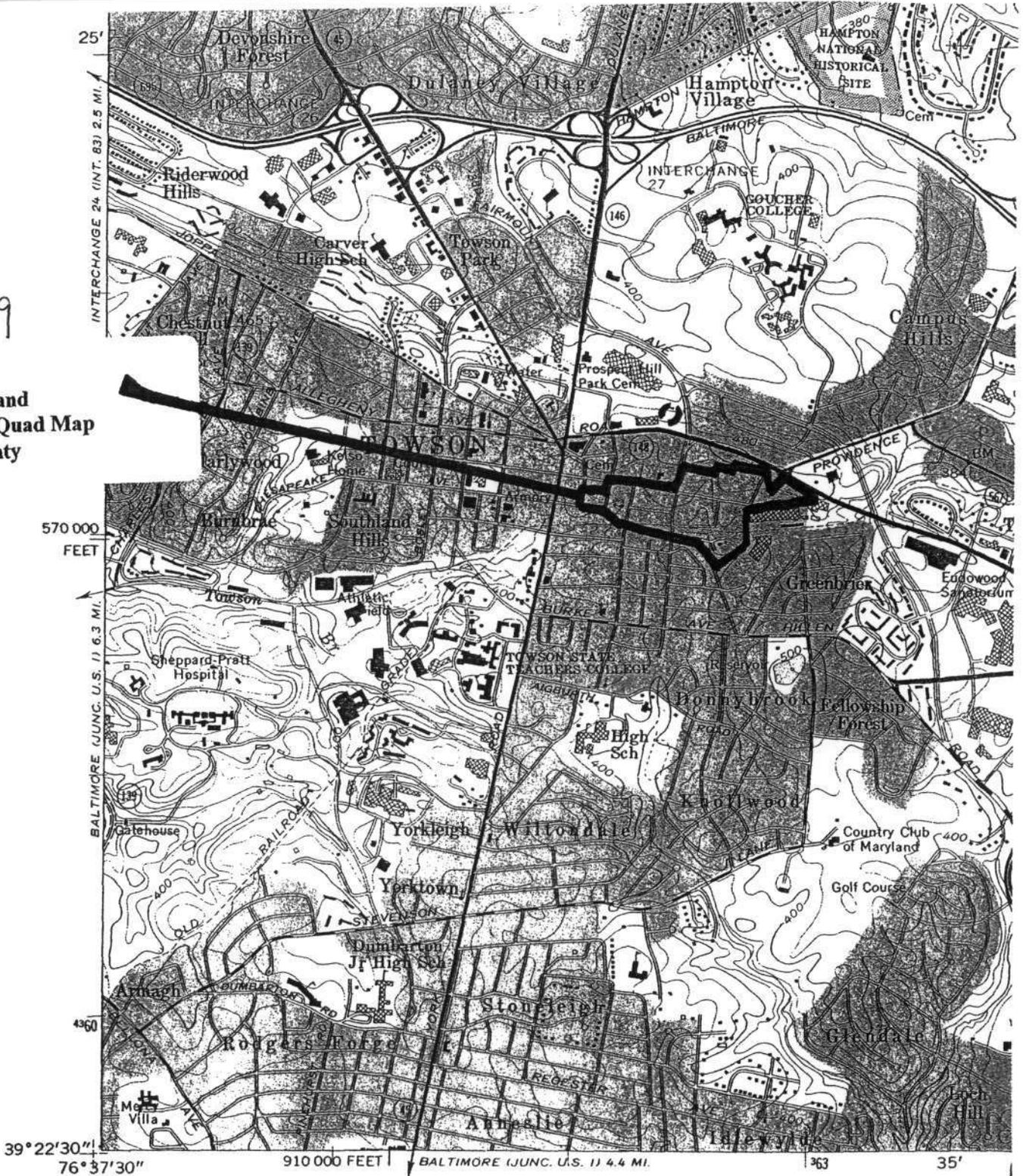
Data Sources:  
 Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)  
 Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)  
 Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)

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-1049

East Towson  
Towson, Maryland  
Towson USGS Quad Map  
Baltimore County



(BALTIMORE WEST)  
2682 (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

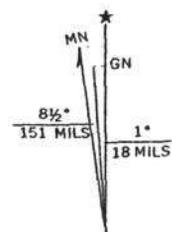
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944  
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

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-1049

TWIN DWELLING, 404 E. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
MD-SHPD

NORTHWEST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST

1 of 3

TRACELIES 10/2001



BA - 1049  
TWIN DWELLING, 404 E. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
MD-SHPD  
NORTHEAST CORNER, VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST

2 of 3

TRACERIES, 10/2001



BA-1049  
TWIN DWELLING, 404 E. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
MD-SHPS  
SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEW LOOKING NORTH

3 of 3

TRACERIES, 10/2001

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AUNT ALICE'S HOUSE II

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 404-06 Pennsylvania ave.

second

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md.

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Baltimore County

STATE

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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Alice (Mack) Johnson

Telephone #: 296-0284

STREET & NUMBER 321 Lennox Ave

Towson Maryland 21204

CITY, TOWN Towson Md.

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 5453

Folio #: 383

STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md.

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

BA-1049 - 404 - 406 Pennsylvania

1915 - 1927

Each half of this two-story frame duplex consists of a front porch, a two bay square main section, and a one-bay deep rear shed addition of one-story height. The main block contains a front parlc followed by a dining room with an open stair.

**7 DESCRIPTION**

BA-1049

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

404-406 Pa. (early 20th century)

This two-story frame duplex was built in the early twentieth century. It is four bays wide by two bays deep, with a one-story addition across the rear, or south, side. The main blocks gable roof runs east-west, parallel to the street. Each half of the house has a window and door on the first floor and one window on the second floor of the facade, and two windows on each floor and one in the attic on the gable end. All the windows contain 6/6 sash. A wide shed dormer lights the south side on the second floor.

The semi-enclosed shed-roofed front porch has a waist-high partition across its center and features square chamfered posts. Each side of the house is two rooms deep in the main block. A stair, open to the south room, runs along the partition between the two rooms. The newel post and balusters are square. A fireplace is located on the south wall of the south room. The mantel's quirk ogee-chamfer molding is an early feature in the East Towson neighborhood.

The house is covered with blue aluminum siding. It rests on a concrete cellar. A small front yard slopes from the house down to the street.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

BA-1049

# 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 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

This house is a fine example of a successful attempt by a local builder to construct houses compatible with the standards of the early twentieth century, and at the same time be within the financial reach of the community.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*[Faint, illegible text describing the boundary description]*

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Committee to Save East Towson M. Pollock/M. Stinson architect

ORGANIZATION

E. Towson Improvement Assoc./Towson Ymca

DATE

823-8870

STREET & NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Ave.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

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-1049  
Aunt Alice's House #II  
404-406 Pa. Ave.  
Towson, Md.  
north

Merry Stinson  
1977