

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-1072
402 Railroad Avenue
East Towson, Baltimore County
Circa 1900
Private

The vernacular dwelling at 402 Railroad 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 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 dwelling is sited on a level grassy lot surrounded by mature trees and shrubs. The single-pile wood frame house sits on a solid stone random rubble foundation and is re-clad with vinyl siding. It is two stories in height and two bays wide with a side gable roof, which fronts close to the road. A shed roof wood frame porch covers the full-width of the façade and is supported with Tuscan posts. The entrance contains a single-leaf fifteen-light wood door with a square wood surround. The replacement windows are 1/1 double-hung vinyl sashes. There is a rear ell addition and two flat roof additions, one story each, on the rear elevation. The foundation for the one-story additions is concrete block. There are two metal flue pipes located in the one-story additions. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles, and the cornice is square-edged encased in aluminum.

7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 1072

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.

Constructed circa 1900, this vernacular dwelling is sited on a level grassy lot surrounded by mature trees and shrubs. The single-pile wood frame house sits on a solid stone random rubble foundation and is re-clad with vinyl siding. It is two stories in height and two bays wide with a side gable roof, which fronts close to the road. A shed roof wood frame porch covers the full-width of the façade and is supported with Tuscan posts. The entrance contains a single-leaf fifteen-light wood door with a square wood surround. The replacement windows are 1/1 double-hung vinyl sashes. There is a rear ell addition and two flat roof additions, one story each, on the rear elevation. The foundation for the one-story additions is concrete block. There are two metal flue pipes located in the one-story additions. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles, and the cornice is square-edged encased in aluminum.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1072

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. **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1900 ca.

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 402 Railroad Avenue was constructed circa 1900 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. 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-1072

- 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 .13 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Towson Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The house is located at 402 Railroad Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70A, Parcel 501 since its construction circa 1900.

11. Form Prepared by

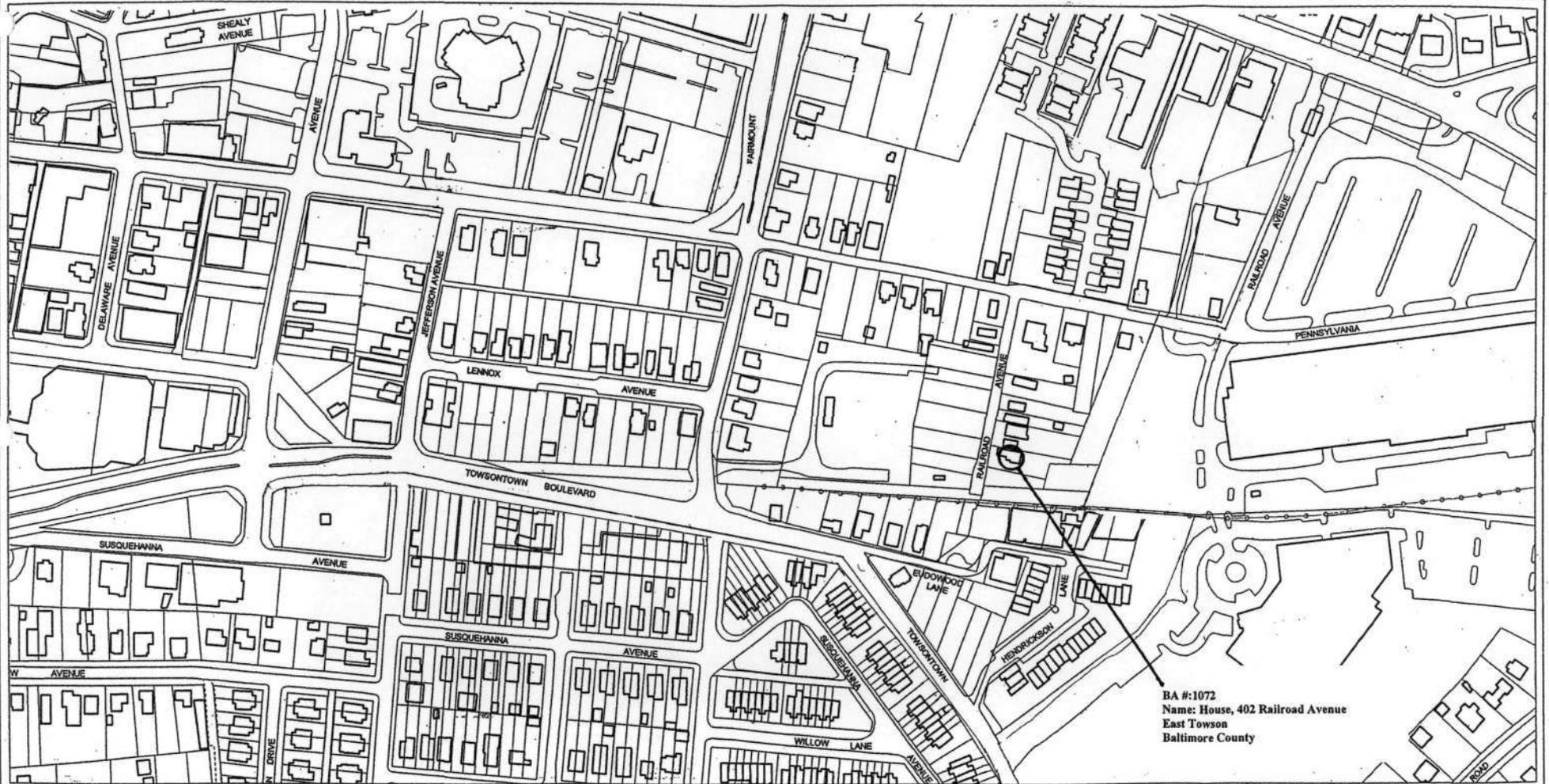
name/title	J. Bunting, R. Weidlich, K. Baynard, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	November 28, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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 #:1072
 Name: House, 402 Railroad Avenue
 East Towson
 Baltimore County



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



Scale

1 inch = 200 feet
 1:2400

100 0 100 200 Feet

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 1995
 Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'

BA-1072

East Towson
Towson, Maryland
Towson USGS Quad Map
Baltimore County



(BALTIMORE WEST)
5662 1 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

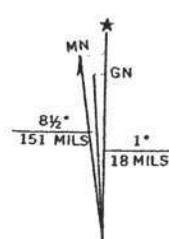
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

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-1072

HOUSE, 402 RAILROAD AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

NORTHWEST CORNER

1 of 3



BA-1072
HOUSE, 402 RAILROAD AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRAILERIES
10/2001
MD-SHPO
SOUTHWEST CORNER
2 of 3



BA-1072
HOUSE, 402 RAILROAD AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

SOUTHEAST CORNER

3 of 3

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC ANNA DAVIS HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 402 Railroad Ave.

second

CITY, TOWN Towson Md. 21204

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Baltimore

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Lillian Carr/Anna Davis

Telephone #: 821-1541

STREET & NUMBER 402 Railroad Ave.

CITY, TOWN Towson Md. 21204

STATE, zip code

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #: 4581:435

STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN Towson Md. 21204

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

BA-1072- 402 Railroad

before 1898

The main block of this two-story frame house is two bays wide by one bay deep, followed by a kitchen section and several later additions. A porch runs across the street facade.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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

402 RR

This two-story frame house may be the one which appears on an 1898 map of Towson. The main block, whose gable roof runs north-south, is two bays wide by one bay deep. A one bay square two-story wing runs perpendicular to the main block from the north end of its east side. Several later additions follow to the southeast. A door appears in the north bay of the west, or street, side. The other bays on the facade and on the south side contain 6/6 sash windows. A shed-roofed porch runs along the west facade. A footrail and handrail not connected by balusters intersect the square porch posts. The house is covered with tan aluminum siding.

The floor plan of the main block consists of a stair on the north and a parlor on the south. The stair runs straight before turning in the corner. An octagonal newel post topped by a round cap is followed by square balusters.

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

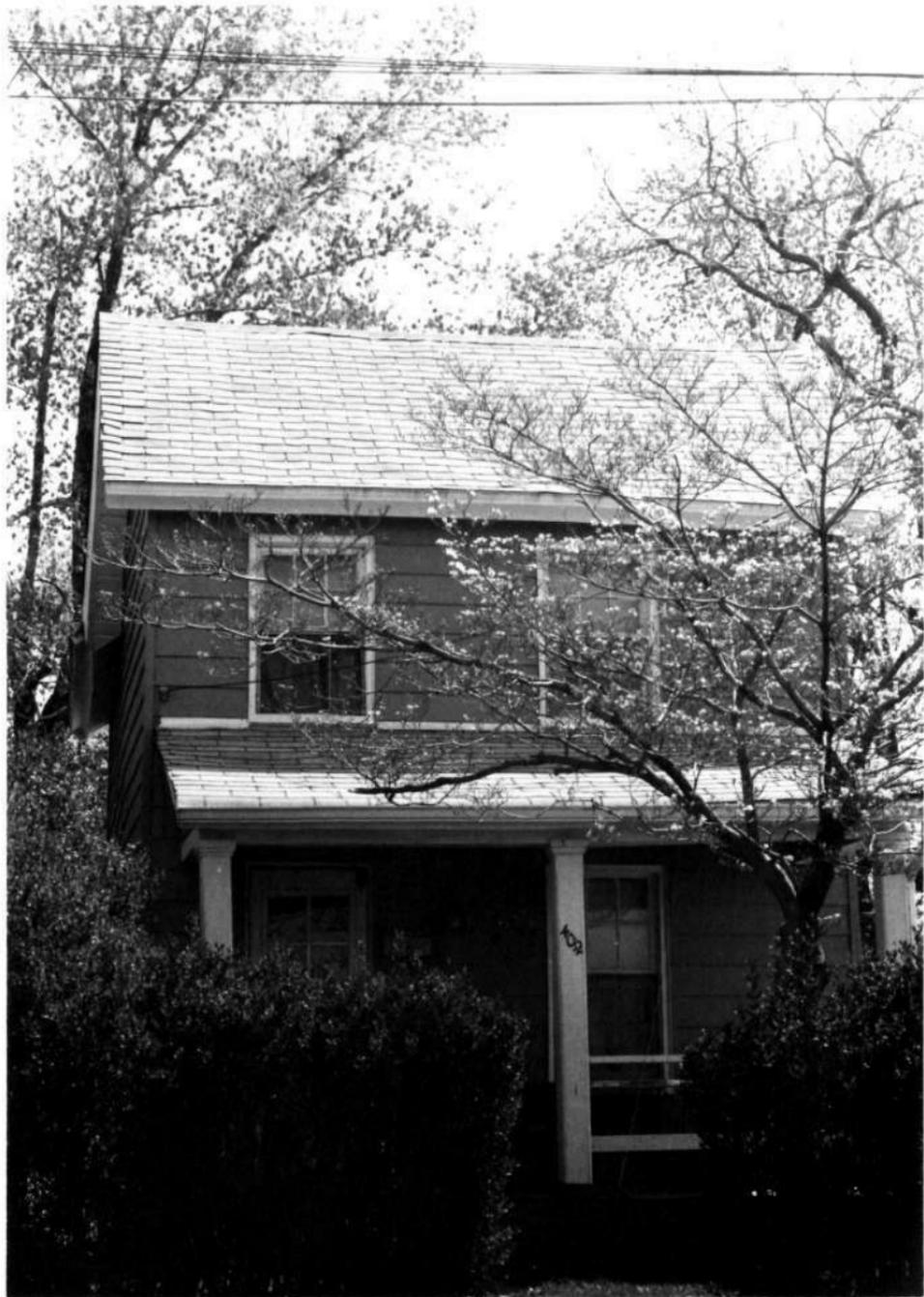
11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE		DATE	
Marcus Pollock/coordinator Merry Stinson/architect		7/77	
ORGANIZATION		TELEPHONE	
Committee to Save E. Towson/Towson Ymca		823-8870	
STREET & NUMBER		TELEPHONE	
600 W. Chesapeake Ave.			
CITY OR TOWN		STATE	
Towson Md. 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-1072
Anna Davis House
402 RR Ave.
Towson, Md.
west

Merry Stinson
1977