

CAPSULE

1113 W. Lake Avenue

With Baltimore City being one of the United States' ten largest cities it is somewhat amazing that some of Baltimore County's rural character survives on its very border. There are several undeveloped tracts of land along West Lake Avenue and some of them still contain agrarian structures. The stone farmhouse at # 1113 is one of them.

It is a fairly large residence constructed of native stone. While it appears to date from the first half of the 19th century the local belief that the house is older is supported by the presence of an unusual and quite large cooking fireplace in the cellar. However, this house does not appear on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1113 W. Lake Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ninth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Gerald Higgens

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

1113 W. Lake Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: Plat Book 14

Folio #: 183

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-1782

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>May, 1979</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Modern siding obscures the fact that this is a stone building that is two stories in the front (North), three in the rear and is three bays wide and two long bays deep. The high basement is a sloping hillside site results in a foundation that is 2 feet high on the northwest corner and 7 feet high on the southwest corner. The nearly square block is capped by a shallow pitch hipped roof. Two interior chimneys exit at the ridge.

There is fairly regular fenestration throughout except in the back or south facade where there have been alterations. For the most part the original windows are tall and slender 6/6 sash.

The main or north facade is characterized by a steeply pitched cross-gable (possible addition) and the centralized tri-partite division. There are centrally located doors on both the first and second levels suggesting the possibility of an earlier second story porch or gallery. The present single story supported by four square columns and two pilasters covers the entire first level. It has been much altered. The most decorative feature of this facade is the round arch 2/2 sash window which vents the cross gable dormer. The other windows are fitted with louvered shutters.

The west facade has a slightly elongated appearance due to the interior arrangement of the chimneys. The outer bays are vented by 6/6 sash windows on the two principal levels with the basement being vented with similarly placed 2-light casements. That of the north bay has been altered.

The east side of the house is nearly identical to the west except that there is a bulkhead in the north bay. The upper window of the south bay on both facades is an off sized wider opening than the others.

The south facade is the most difficult to describe but is the most interesting in terms of original appearance. It is on this side of the building that one can see the walls are constructed of random sized fieldstones with an attempt at coursing and the use of massive stones as quoins. This facade is a full three stories with entrances on the bottom level. There are full galleries or porches on all three levels with various portions being either enclosed or open.

It is curious how unlike this facade is from its counterpart on the north side. Not only is there a taller massing, but a different plan as well. The entrances of both levels are on the west side rather than in the middle and instead of the Victorian cross-gable dormer there is a centrally placed pedimented dormer decorated with a "broken pediment." The result is that this side of the building is distinctly Federal

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

in appearance while the opposite is Victorian.

On the first level within the enclosed area one can see that the exterior stone wall has been stuccoed and painted white. Evidences of whitewash are found in the upper portions of the south wall as well suggesting that the building may once have been painted white.

Portions of a large ovolo cornice moulding survive on the north, south and east sides but stop after wrapping around the southeast and southwest corners. That this facade was left undecorated suggests that when the moulding was applied this was indeed the "back" of the building.

Interior:

This designation is further suggested by evidence of a kitchen in the south half of the basement. While an exposed flat arch chimney support for the west stack is not unexpected, an unusually large fireplace on the south side of the east chimney is somewhat surprising. With no evidence of wrought-technology to be found and only machine cut lumber and nails a mammoth fireplace is unusual.¹ It is constructed of brick with a segmental arch and while there is no mantel as such, a 4 inch shelf is worked into the bricking 67 inches above the floor. The stack is 37½ inches thick and 102 inches wide. The fireplace opening is 73 inches wide, 50 inches high at the center of the arch (48 inches at corners) and there is a 24 inch depth. No evidence of a crane could be seen, the only hardware being what appeared to be 20th century hooks and nails.

The support for the west chimney has a flat arch utilizing iron channel bars and brick piers. The opening is 23 inches wide, 81 inches high and 22 inches deep. The chimneys are the same size. Except for the northwest parlor all the fireplaces above the basement level are closed and concealed. The presence of a hearth support utilizing carpenters joints directly above the large fireplace of the east chimney on the south side of the stack and a similar support seen on the north side of the west stack suggest the possibility of alternate positioning of the fireplaces in the upper rooms.

The basement probably reflects the original interior layout better than any level as the upper levels have been altered greatly by the removal and addition of partitions. A central hall with double parlors on either side sharing the centrally located chimneys of the inner wall yielded a very symmetrical plan that was popular in Maryland in the first half of the 19th century. Because this house is only three bays wide it did not have a totally segregated center hall but the centrally located entrance and physical evidence of all three stairs being in the center of the building is at least suggestive of such a plan.

¹A reinforcement piece in the hearth support above this fireplace contains mostly cut nails. Three nails in this piece have very irregular heads. It was not possible to remove them to determine if they were beaten out of shape by the carpenter or into shape by a nailmaker.

Little original fabric is exposed on the first level. There is a fireplace with mantel in the northwest parlor. A very wide shelf and a surround decorated with door mouldings are early Victorian in character. The moulding is a channeled architrave type with double inner beads, and where the "pilasters" meet the frieze there are plain corner blocks.

An added but authentic pressed metal ceiling decorates the southwest room (dining area).

There is a front and back stairs. The front or main stairs are a straight stairs located against the east wall of the present living room and have a 90° double neweled landing that has an awkward relationship to the entrance. This relationship and the late Victorian appearance of the inset paneled rectangular newel posts suggest an alteration. The back stairs, however, are located against the opposite wall and appear original. They are lighted by a second story round arch 2/2 sash similar to the one in the cross-gable dormer.

The second level has evolved into a somewhat chopped-up space that obscures the original symmetrical lay-out. It was noticed that this level contains several very nice triple cross raised panel doors. The windows of this level have relatively plain exterior mouldings with prominent 3/4 round inner beads that appear original.

The attic is finished with knee walls and a tray ceiling and is pleasantly lighted by a skylight that has been cut through the ridge in between the chimneys. A crawlspace enables observation of the roof framing and like the basement fireplace and plan, the roof is pre-modern. The sides of the hipped roof are extended 2 feet 4 inches by 3" x 7" members fixed to the lateral 3" x 7" joists via mortise-tenon-and-trunnel. These extensions support a 2" x 4" false plate for which the principal rafters are V-notched. The corner rafters have angle braces which are fixed with cut nails.

It was also noticed in the attic that the inner walls of the cross-gable dormer meet the floor at radically different angles unlike the symmetrical opening of the pedimented dormer in the opposite side of the room. It is suspected that the cross-gable is an addition.

Outbuildings:

Directly attached to the southeast corner of the house is a two story gable roofed frame structure that is perceived to be an early garage. It is 12 feet wide and 15 feet deep and extends Southward. The presence of German siding and a 2/2 round arch west window creates the possibility of a carriage house (with a room above), its proximaty to the main house makes it unlikely as a stable. The structure is extended to the East by a modern single story shed roofed addition which was used in recent times as a stable.

Storage cellar -

The next house East of this property is a classic frame picturesque dwelling a la Downing or Vaux which is perceived as being post-bellum. It is surrounded by stone walls and a stone outbuilding which may have been original to # 1113 W. Lake Avenue. This may not have been the case, however, it was observed that approximately 50 yards East of the stone dwelling there is a stone construction built into the side of the same hill. Access was not gained. A round metal ventilator protrudes from an earth mound whose south side has a triangular shaped stone wall.

The wall is 2 feet thick. It is 5 feet high on its southeast corner. It is gabled and measures 9 feet 6 inches at the midpoint. The total length is 28 feet. A centrally located 3' x 6½' door provides access.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1782

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 Third quarter 19th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

With Baltimore City being one of the United States' ten largest cities it is somewhat amazing that some of Baltimore County's rural character survives on its very border. There are several undeveloped tracts of land along West Lake Avenue and some of them still contain agrarian structures. The stone farmhouse at # 1113 is one of them.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Land Records
 Bromley Atlas, 1915
 Hopkins Atlas, 1877

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The attachment

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

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

WAYNE E. NIELD, II

ORGANIZATION

HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

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

BA-1782

TITLE
1113 W. LAKE AVENUE
Parcel 101, Map 79

The Chain of title was difficult to trace, and has as yet not been completed. However, the following information was found:

William McRoberts is indicated as owner in the 1915 Bromley Atlas. A house is also indicated here.

John Watson, Jr. is shown on a plat recorded in Plat Book 4, Folio 183, 1916 with a stone house with frame addition is indicated.

H. Wiedy is shown on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas, however, no house is indicated here.



BA-1782-A

STORAGE CELLAR-
1113 W. LAKE AVE.

J. CORCORAN
7/79



BA-1782-A

STORAGE CELLAR -
1113 W. LAKE AVE

J. CORCORAN

7/79



BA-1782

#1113 W. LAKE AVE.

N. W. CORNER

J. CORCORAN

7/79



BA- 1782

1113 W. LAKE AVE.
S. FACADE

J. CORCORAN
7/79