BA 1973

SYKES HOUSE/ SIMPSON HOUSE 1885

MARYLAND LINE

PRIVATE

This house was built in 1885, as testamentary records demonstrate, and the contractor was Oliver Purkey. William Sykes had the house built but died before its completion. Sykes' son, William S. Sykes, bought the house from his mother after coming of age and it passed to Thomas W. and Elizabeth M. Wilson in 1914, and to Harry and Mary Waltemyer in 1916. State directories show that Wilson was a veternary surgeon, Waltemyer a carpenter. The house is a two-story plus attic, vernacular structure, frame covered with composition shingles. There is a full-width front porch with a wrap-around section on the south end of the house. There is a second front door located in a set-back wing. The design is plain, three bays across the front, not counting the set-back additional entrance bay.

VII-NEW-BA 1973

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MAGI 0319735604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC SYKES HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

Simpson House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

21,422 York Road

CITY, TOWN

Maryland Line

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)	XPRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	XPRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Robert V. Simpson

Telephone #: 357-5852

STREET & NUMBER

—

CITY, TOWN

Maryland Line

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21105

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building

Liber #: EHK JR. 5882

Folio #: 120

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

BA-1973
SYKES HOUSE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sykes or Simpson House is a two-story plus attic frame house in vernacular style, well built but fairly plain. The house has two front entrances, but one is in the small set-back wing. The formal entrance is in the northernmost of the three bays in the main block. Layout of the main block is side-hall plan. The two windows opening on the porch are floor-to-ceiling types, 2-over-2 double-hung sashes.

In the south bay, which is set back from the main facade and at the end of the wraparound portion of the front porch, is the other front entrance, via a paneled door protected by an antique screen door. The porch is shed-roofed, except at its right-angle bend, and is supported by six wooden Doric columns. The columns support an architrave and cornice. The porch is partially enclosed by a railing with square balusters. Porch deck is wood, a step above grade in front. The space under the porch is screened by a latticework panel.

The main facade is three bays wide with a fourth bay in the south wing, all windows at second-story level being double-hung sash types of 4-over-4 design. The main block has a narrow cornice. Roofing is gabled with heavy eave returns on both main block and south wing. Roofing material is of grey-green rubber tile.

The house is two bays deep, including fenestration in the south wing. At first-story level, the south wing has twin sash windows. This wing has its own attic level, not as high as the main roof, and there is a single square attic window, vertically divided. The attic of the main block is lighted by a full-scale double-hung sash window set between the route of the chimney and the street facade. There are five windows in the north end of the house. There is a rear entrance at the southwest end of the house, also a back porch at the northwest end of the house. Outer wall covering is white composition shingle.

The foundation, or what can be seen of it, is concrete.

To the rear of the house is a concrete-block garage with roll-up doors. To the southwest is a red frame stable.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

BA-1973

SYKES HOUSE

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__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
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1885 BUILDER/~~ARCHITECT~~ Oliver Purkey

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is a plain structure without any stylistic features that would pin it down to a narrow date period. It is found in tax ledgers back through 1896, seemingly the same modestly valued dwelling.

William Sykes owned a number of parcels in the south end of New Market or Maryland Line beginning in 1858. The six-acre property contained $1200 worth of improvements in 1876. (1)

When William Sykes died in 1885, his administrator paid off what appears to be the entire cost of having a house built. The construction of a house in 1885 would suggest that some earlier house had been demolished, as only one substantial dwelling was found on all six acres in the 1896 tax ledger. (2)

Sykes' administrator made the following expenditure in 1886:

> Ditto paid Oliver Purkey in full of his claim and contract with the deceased in his lifetime for building a house on the Real Estate owned by the deceased per his receipt appears ($) 1024.44 (3)

The Sykes children as they were referred to at the time of the administration, were Lillie W. and William S. Sykes. The 1896 tax ledger valued the main house at $800, the barn at $125, and a tenant house at $75. (4)

William S. Sykes purchased the house and one acre of the overall property from his Mother in 1911 for $800. (5) Sykes appeared in the 1911 Tax Ledger with a house worth $750 but soon sold out. (6) In 1914, he sold to Elizabeth M. Wilson, wife of Thomas M. Wilson. (7) The Wilsons sold to Harry and Mary Waltermyer in 1916. Waltermyer also appeared in the 1911 tax ledger; by that time, the tenant house worth only $75 had dropped out of the list. (8)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (continued)

The 1918 tax ledger showed that Harry Waltermyer lived next to Emack H. Downs (to the north) and his structures were:

Dwelling	22 x 24	2 stories	$740
Barn	20 x 30		220. (9)

Subsequent owners were Donald T. and Mary L. Kline, who purchased from Mrs. Waltermyer's executor in 1963. Robert V. Simpson became owner in 1978. (10)

The 1915 State business directory showed that Harry Waltermyer was a carpenter, and the person who sold him the house, Thomas M. Wilson, was probably the same as T. W. Wilson, listed in the directory as veterinary surgeon. (11)

NOTES:

1. Assessor's Field Book, 1876, District 7, n.p.
2. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1896, n.p.
3. Administration Accounts, TP 11:290.
4. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1896, n.p.
5. Baltimore County Deeds, WPC 381:468.
6. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1911, f. 724.
7. B.C. Deeds, WPC 440:352.
8. B.C. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1911, f. 726.
9. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1918, f. 831.
10. B.C. Deeds, RRG 4240:294.
11. R. L. Polk, Maryland State Gazette and Business Directory (Baltimore, 1915), p. 1075.

BA-1973

SYKES HOUSE

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Deeds and Tax Ledgers.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.68

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

S21-1/4E 5.9 perches on westside of Turnpike
S64-1/4W 7.4 perches
S43-3/4W 38.2 perches
N43-1/4W 3.10 perches
N43-3/4E 47.6 perches to Beginning

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

STATE	COUNTY
NONE	NONE
NONE	NONE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: John W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION: Baltimore County Office of Planning & Zoning

DATE: April 11, 1980

STREET & NUMBER: 401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE: 494-3495

CITY OR TOWN: Towson

STATE: Maryland 21240

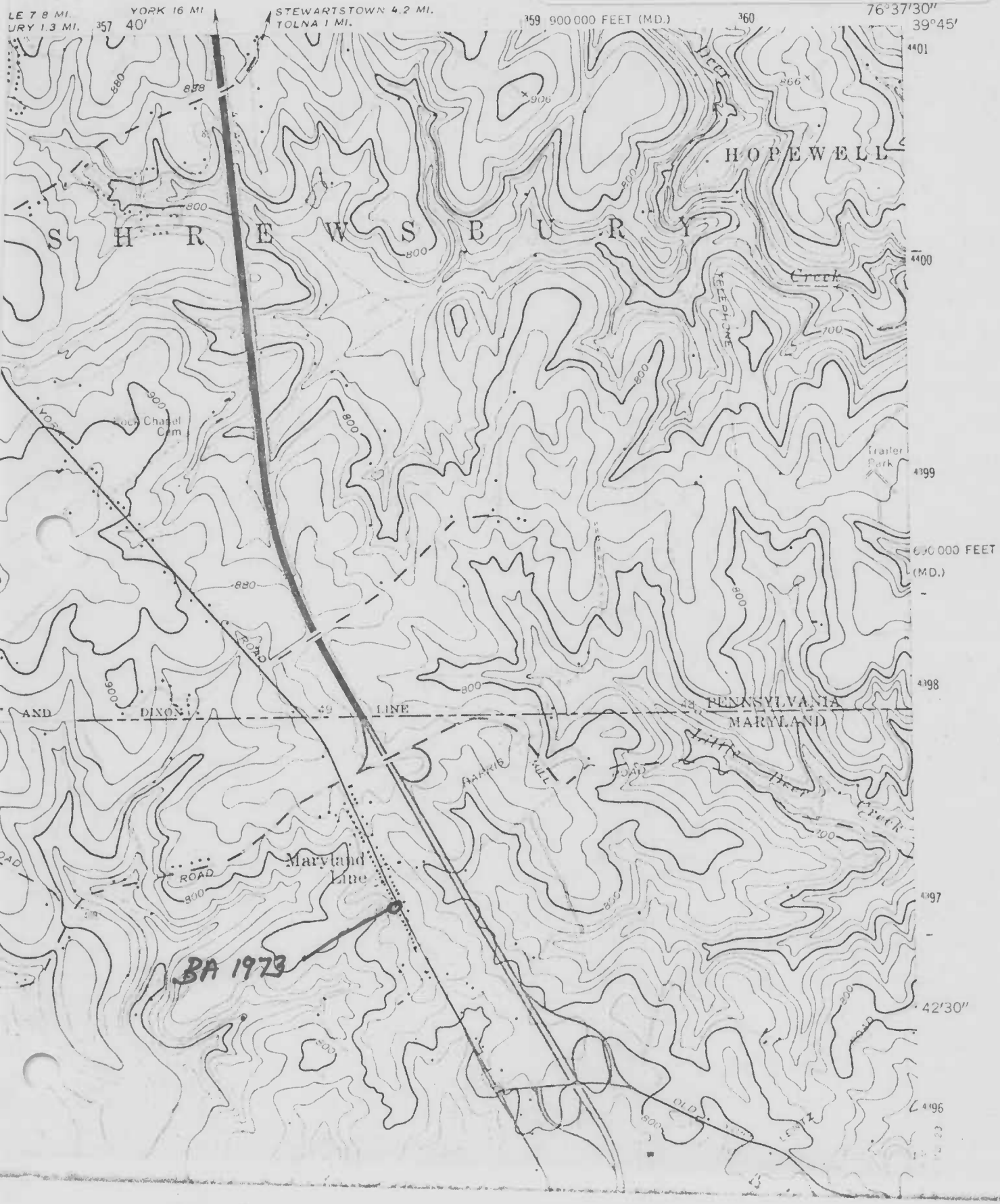
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

SYKES HOUSE BA 1973

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quad
NEW FREEDOM



SYKES HOUSE BA 1973
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, OCT 1979
Neg. located at MHT
Main (E) & south facades fr. SE

SYKES HOUSE BA 1973
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, OCT 1979
Neg. located at MHT
Main (east, street) facade