

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Banks House Survey Number: BA-2431

Project: MD 7 Road Widening at Rossville Blvd Agency: SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

According to the MHT form prepared and presented to MHT as part of this review, The Banks House is not eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The house is located near the intersections of MD 7 and Rossville Boulevard, in Rossville, a suburb of Baltimore, and faces a heavily commercialized area characterized by strip malls and fast food restaurants. The building was constructed as a single-family dwelling ca. 1930 at the time that the commercialization of this area began. Constructed of rusticated concrete block, the house is executed in a variant of the American four-square-type house and features classical detailing such as regular fenestration patterns, Scamozzi Ionic porch columns, and corner quoining. The house is a good example of the use of rusticated concrete block and of an American four-square variant, but has been significantly compromised by its setting. In addition, its original use has been altered from single to multiple dwelling and the interior remodelled to accommodate this new use. Further, this type of house form is better represented in several Baltimore neighborhoods such as Overlea, Parkville and Hamilton, which still retain their integrity of setting. The property is therefore considered not eligible under Criterion C.

The property is not known to have any associations with persons or events significant to our past, nor to have any archeological potential and is thus not eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A, B, or D.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review and Compliance

Prepared by: Rita Suffness, Leader Cultural Resources Group

Elizabeth Hannold & Kim Williams 2/5/1996  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

Orlando Roberts March 8, 1996  
Reviewer, NR program Date

*Jmg*

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_

**BA-2431**  
**Banks House**  
**Baltimore County, MD**

Historic Context:

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period: Modern (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme: Architecture

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function and Use: Domestic/Single Dwelling/Residence

Known Design Source: None\_

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. BA 2431

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Banks House

**2. Location**

street & number 8874 MD 7

N/A not for publication

city, town Baltimore (Rossville)

vicinity of

congressional district

state MD

county Baltimore

**3. Classification**

**Category**

district  
 building(s)  
 structure  
 site  
 object

**Ownership**

public  
 private  
 both  
**Public Acquisition**  
 in process  
 being considered  
 not applicable

**Status**

occupied  
 unoccupied  
 work in progress  
**Accessible**  
 yes: restricted  
 yes: unrestricted  
 no

**Present Use**

agriculture  
 commercial  
 educational  
 entertainment  
 government  
 industrial  
 military  
 museum  
 park  
 private residence  
 religious  
 scientific  
 transportation  
 other:

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

name George Marmaras

street & number 9217 Cornflower Road

telephone no.: Unlisted

city, town Baltimore

state and zip code MD 21236

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courthouse

6925  
liber

street & number

454  
folio

city, town Towson

state MD

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title N/A

date

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

# 7. Description

Survey No. BA 2431

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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

See Continuation Sheet 7.1

# 8. Significance

Survey No. BA 2431

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"/> 500-1599	<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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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** ca. 1930 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See Continuation Sheet 8.1

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. <sup>BA</sup> 2431

# 10. Geographical Data

inventoried  
Acreage of nominated property ca. 1 acre

Quadrangle name Middle River

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

## Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Parcel

## List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
-------	------------	------	--------	------

state		code	county	code
-------	--	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rita Suffness, Leader Cultural Resources Group

organization MD State Highway Administration date 2-17-95

street & number 707 N. Calvert Street telephone 410 333 1183

city or town Baltimore state MD

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

**BA-2431**  
**Banks House**  
**Baltimore County, MD**

**Continuation Sheet 7.1**  
**Description**

The Banks House is located in Rossville, a suburb of Baltimore located to the east of the city near the intersections of MD 7 (Philadelphia Road) and Rossville Boulevard. [Rossville originated well southeast of this location near the junction of the Philadelphia/Wilmington Railroad and the headwater of the NE Branch of the Patapsco River in the mid nineteenth century. the area has become heavily commercialized since 1932 when the house was constructed.] The Golden Ring Mall is a short distance to the west from the Banks House and the stretch of MD 7 on the opposite of the street is the location of fast food restaurants, dairy stores, strip shopping centers and the VFW Hall, in addition to truck staging and storage areas, etc. The Banks House and its immediate neighbor to the west (Regester House, BA- 2430) are sandwiched between a doctors medical building and contemporary brick rambler on the west and the Adrian Square commercial building (BA 2432) at Ridge Road and MD 7 on the east.

The Banks House is a variant on the foursquare style--a simple, two-story cubic form with dormers located on all four slopes of the pyramidal roof. Like its neighbor, the Regester House, it was constructed of rusticated concrete block with angle quoins of block imitating dressed ashlar masonry. Classical Revival references in the decorative treatment of the building occur in the porch posts of the full width, one-story porch on the south facing entrance facade and the urns set on plinths on each side of the porch stair. The half columns with capitals of a variant on the composite mode are located on a porch rail which is, in turn, supported by concrete balusters. The entrance is located in the east bay and is marred by the incongruous replacement door. Art glass sidelights are located on each side of the door. The west elevation is the location of a semi-octagonal bay to the to the rear and a one-story section is built along the north elevation.

The building has been subdivided into apartments and a set of metal dwellings have been constructed to the rear of the house to provide additional rental units. The original design of the house has been compromised by these changes, and the neighborhood setting of building has also been degraded by the heavy commercial development.

This type of house form, executed in concrete block and articulated with a classically derived decorative treatment was extremely popular in the early to mid-twentieth century. There were numerous houses of concrete block with this stylistic treatment in the eastern area of Baltimore, as there were local sources for concrete block and many proponents of this material among contractors and builders in the area. Baltimore neighborhoods such as Overlea, Parkville and Hamilton have entire neighborhoods filled with houses not unlike the Banks House.

**BA-2431**  
**Banks House**  
**Baltimore County, MD**

**Continuation Sheet 7.2**  
**Description**

Concrete block, produced by a new technology, advertised in new national magazines and catalogues, was extraordinarily popular in the early twentieth century. It was cheap, quick and easy, and no small part of its appeal was that it was ornamental, and could be molded into any number of shapes and made to look like older, more traditional materials. With the improved firing methods for Portland cement, concrete block became standardized around 1900, resulting in the proliferation of concrete block companies in the early decades of the century. Machines were available enabling people to make and assemble their own structures. The artificial stone pattern proved to be the most popular of the seemingly endless style variations available.

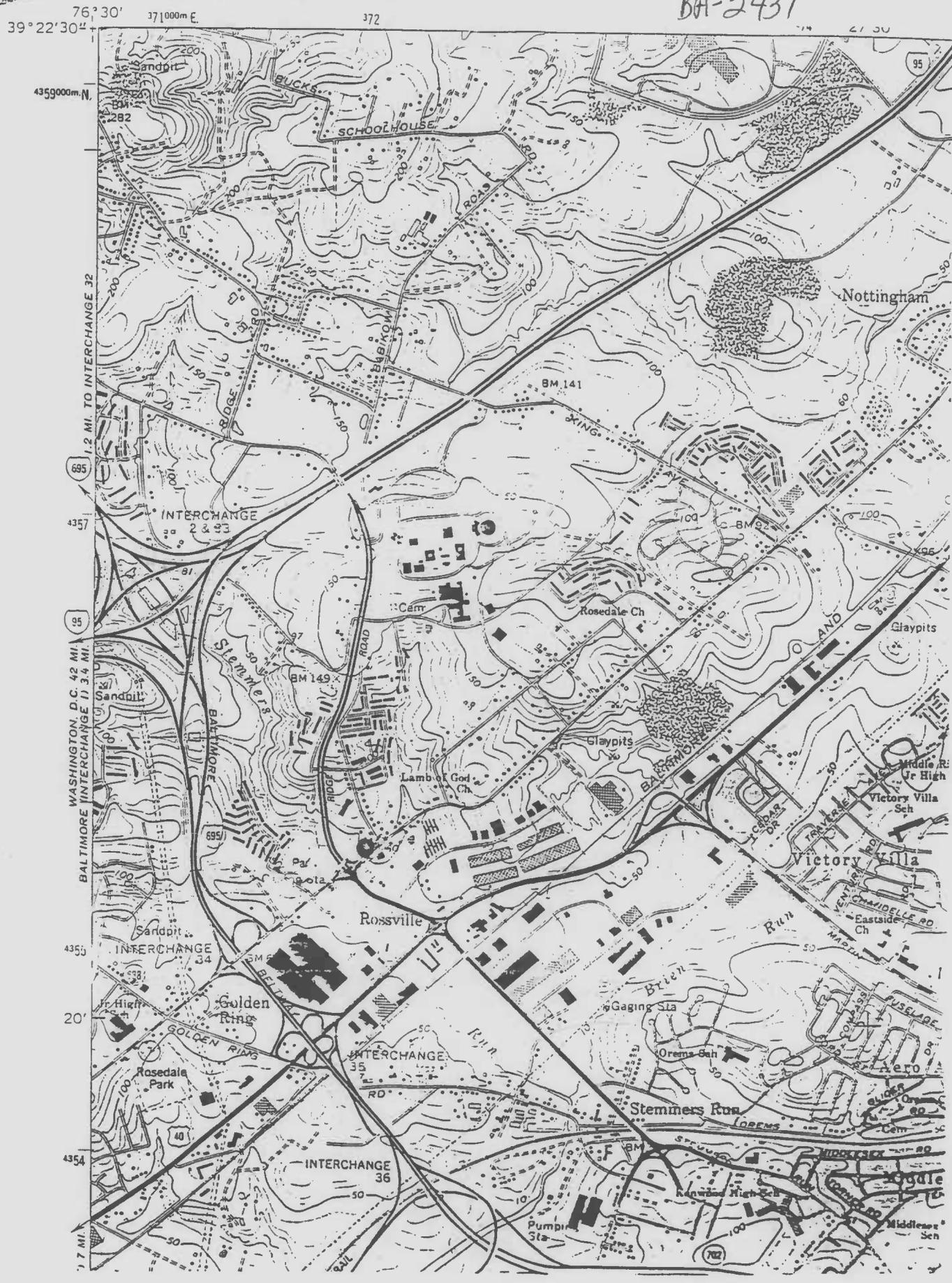
**BA-2431**  
**Banks House**  
**Baltimore County, MD**

**Continuation Sheet 8.1**  
**Statement of Significance**

The Banks House is a multiple family dwelling, having been subdivided into apartments, and is located in the east Baltimore suburb of Rossville. Constructed of concrete block about 1930 in the popular foursquare style, it is embellished by classical revival style decorative features. In a style and of a material widely represented in numerous intact neighborhood such as Overlea, Parkville and Hamilton, the Banks House is isolated in a heavily commercialized area, characterized by huge as well as small strip shopping malls, medical complexes, convenience stores, institutional complexes and truck staging areas. Thus the setting of the building has been severely compromised. Given that numerous similar examples of this type of dwelling exist in intact neighborhoods exhibiting integrity and greater cohesiveness, the Banks House is only marginally significant as a concrete block dwelling of the second quarter of the twentieth century.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

*Banks*  
BA-2431



BA 2431  
Banks House  
Rossville

List of Photographs

1. South (Entrance) Elevation
2. Detail, Entrance
3. S.W. Corner
4. West Elevation
5. N.W. Corner
6. Rear (North) Elevation
7. N. E. Corner
8. East Elevation
9. S. E. Corner
10. Row of Pre-fabricated Garage and Apartments  
in rear of Register and Banks House



BA-2431

Banks House

1120141-41 B-13



BA-2431

Banks House

103041-411024



BA-2431

Banks House

1020141-6-3-572



BA-2431

3rd House

11202431-4



BA-2431

Bank House

1941 10-12



BA-2431

Banks House

1931 1-4 11-22



BA-2431

Banks House

1921 191-4 3 5 22







BA-2431

James House

1152 0147-4 1-18-52



BA-2431

Banks House

1102 0041 -4 1 15-1 4