

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-1845

Norris Cottage at Sheppard-Pratt Hospital

6609 Osler Road

Baltimore, Baltimore County

1895

Private

The Norris Cottage, erected circa 1895, is one of only two extant buildings on the property erected by the family of patients at the Sheppard Pratt Hospital (BA-211). The Sheppard Pratt Hospital property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the treatment of the mentally ill. The history of this property dates from the establishment of Sheppard Asylum, an experimental institution created under a charter enacted by the Maryland Legislature in 1853. In 1857, Moses Sheppard, a member of the Religious Society of Friends who had an interest in social causes, bequeathed \$571,440 to the asylum he had been instrumental in establishing. Construction of the hospital and its associated buildings on the 341-acre site began in 1860, opening to patients on November 25, 1891. Enoch Pratt provided additional financial assistance for the care of the patients and construction of associated buildings in 1896. A stipulation of the gift was that the property be renamed the Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital.

This Queen Anne-style dwelling fronts south on Osler Road located within the Sheppard-Pratt Hospital campus. Standing two-and-a-half stories tall and three bays wide on a sloping lot, the random Ashlar-cut stone dwelling has a cross gable roof with asphalt shingles. Piercing the roof line are two, central interior brick chimneys and one, interior end brick chimney, each with a corbeled cap. The L-shaped façade has a half-hipped porch that stands one-story-tall and two bays wide and is supported with square columns. Three, 6/6 windows and four, paired 4/4 windows pierce the façade. All of the windows and doors have molded wood hoods, molded wood surrounds, and stone sills. A single-leaf wood door that is paneled with lights marks the entry. It is surrounded by paneled, four-light sides and a six-light transom. Projecting from the west elevation is a three-story gabled bay with a similar entry. A three-sided bay projects from the first story of the east elevation with hooded 4/4 windows and a bracketed cornice. Prominent features in the gable ends include an open bargeboard with three-leaf pendants and a pointed-arch 6/6 window in the gable end with wood tracery. The treatment of these windows is exactly the same as the others except for the pointed-arch, molded wood hood. Down in the ravine behind the house are two outbuildings and a footbridge. Closest to the house is a circa 1895 springhouse built into the hill. This random ashlar-cut stone building has a side gable, asphalt shingle roof with board-and batten siding in the ends. A square, vented cupola pierces the roof crest. Further north is a circa 1895 smokehouse. Also built with random ashlar-cut stone construction, this building has a pyramidal roof with asphalt shingles and square, vented cupola

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1845

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Norris Cottage at Shephard-Pratt Hospital (BA-211)

other

2. Location

street and number 6609 Osler Road __ not for publication

city, town Baltimore __ vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital C/O Mr. Mickey Slade

street and number 6501 N. Charles Street telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21204-6819

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber N/A folio N/A

city, town Towson tax map 70 tax parcel 583 tax ID number 1700001912

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	<input type="checkbox"/> _landscape	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _private	<input type="checkbox"/> _commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> _recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> _structure	<input type="checkbox"/> _both	<input type="checkbox"/> _defense	<input type="checkbox"/> _religion	<input type="checkbox"/> _buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> _site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> _social	<input type="checkbox"/> _sites
<input type="checkbox"/> _object		<input type="checkbox"/> _education	<input type="checkbox"/> _transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> _structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> _funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> _work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> _objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> _government	<input type="checkbox"/> _unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> _Total
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _health care	<input type="checkbox"/> _vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> _industry	<input type="checkbox"/> _other:	
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
				1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1845

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

Constructed circa 1895, this Queen Anne-style dwelling fronts south on Osler Road located within the Sheppard-Pratt Hospital campus. Standing two-and-a-half stories tall and three bays wide on a sloping lot, the random Ashlar-cut stone dwelling has a cross gable roof with asphalt shingles. Piercing the roof line are two, central interior brick chimneys and one, interior end brick chimney, each with a corbeled cap. The L-shaped façade has a half-hipped porch that stands one-story-tall and two bays wide and is supported with square columns. Three, 6/6 windows and four, paired 4/4 windows pierce the façade. All of the windows and doors have molded wood hoods, molded wood surrounds, and stone sills. A single-leaf wood door that is paneled with lights marks the entry. It is surrounded by paneled, four-light sides and a six-light transom. Projecting from the west elevation is a three-story gabled bay with a similar entry. A three-sided bay projects from the first story of the east elevation with hooded 4/4 windows and a bracketed cornice. Prominent features in the gable ends include an open bargeboard with three-leaf pendants and a pointed-arch 6/6 window in the gable end with wood tracery. The treatment of these windows is exactly the same as the others except for the pointed-arch, molded wood hood.

Down in the ravine behind the house are two outbuildings and a footbridge. Closest to the house is a circa 1895 springhouse built into the hill. This random ashlar-cut stone building has a side gable, asphalt shingle roof with board-and batten siding in the ends. A square, vented cupola pierces the roof crest. Further north is a circa 1895 smokehouse. Also built with random ashlar-cut stone construction, this building has a pyramidal roof with asphalt shingles and square, vented cupola. The roof is trimmed with an open bargeboard that consists of small, three-leaf pendants. The entry to the smokehouse is marked by a single-leaf, vertical board door. The arching footbridge is made of wood with a round-post balustrade.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1845

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 1895- **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1895ca

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 Norris Cottage, erected circa 1895, is one of only two extant buildings on the property erected by the family of patients at the Sheppard Pratt Hospital (BA-211). The Sheppard Pratt Hospital property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the treatment of the mentally ill. The history of this property dates from the establishment of Sheppard Asylum, an experimental institution created under a charter enacted by the Maryland Legislature in 1853. In 1857, Moses Sheppard, a member of the Religious Society of Friends who had an interest in social causes, bequeathed \$571,440 to the asylum he had been instrumental in establishing. Construction of the hospital and its associated buildings on the 341-acre site began in 1860, opening to patients on November 25, 1891. Enoch Pratt provided additional financial assistance for the care of the patients and construction of associated buildings in 1896. A stipulation of the gift was that the property be renamed the Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital.

The Sheppard Pratt Hospital property is sufficiently intact to convey its significance under Criterion A of the National Register and the *Social and Humanitarian Movements* theme (*Aiding the Handicapped and Mental Health Care* subtheme) of the National Historic Landmarks program. This institution was instrumental in the treatment of the mentally ill, establishing psychiatric planning that separated patients according to the nature of their illnesses. Moses Sheppard stated that “the asylum should combine every feature that science and experience might indicate as requisite or desirable to minister to the greatest possible advantage of the patients.”¹ With this in mind, the founders, architects, and hospital staff/planners created a non-institutional environment that provided courteous treatment and comfort to all patients. The setting of the property, building styles, and medical care was guided by the grim conditions of mental patients elsewhere. No patient was to be housed underground and all were to have privacy with ample sunlight and fresh air. Patients were given two rooms, one for the patient and the other for a companion who assisted in their care. Medical staff was initially required to live on the property, thus creating a sense of community among the staff and patients. This philosophy culminated in the 1901 construction of the Casino, a high style building within a convenient distance from the main hospital where patients participated in physical activities. The many recreations held at the Casino included bowling, billiards, light gymnastics, outdoor games, and crafts, activities that led to the establishment of occupational therapy. In the 1920s, prompted by a change in Maryland law, the hospital was the only hospital in the state equipped to teach accredited nurses in an educational setting.

Architecturally, the property illustrates distinctive characteristics of a particular architectural style and period, specifically the Queen Anne-Eastlake style in the mid- to late 19th century and the Colonial Revival style of the early 20th century. Sheppard Pratt Hospital as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development, illustrating the popularity of architect-designed styles that present a picturesque mode within a natural landscape. Furthermore, the integrity of the buildings and landscaping plan, although altered by the evolution of the hospital, is sufficiently intact to convey its significance under Criterion C.

The first building constructed on the property was the Charles Avenue gatehouse (1860) which was designed by the Baltimore firm of Thomas and James M. Dixon. The nationally prominent architect Calvert Vaux designed the original sections of the hospital in 1860.

¹ “The Building of a Sanctuary,” Historic Towson, Inc., updated report of the documentary film, p. 6.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Norris Cottage at Sheppard-Pratt Hospital, 6609 Osler Road, Baltimore, Baltimore County
Continuation Sheet

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Construction of the two identical brick buildings began in 1861, and concluded with the opening of the hospital in 1891. Although not credited as the work of Vaux or the Dixons, the 1895 Powerhouse with laundry and employee's quarters is stylistically consistent with the main hospital and gatehouse. This high style complex was constructed of stone and brick with intricate cross gable roofs, clipped gable ends, overhanging eaves ornamented with exposed brackets, and stone hood moldings and lug sills. Like the towers of the main hospital, the power plant rises five stories over the property with corbeled gables, rows of window openings joined by intersecting gables, and ornate recessed panels.

In 1896, Enoch Pratt pledged over \$1,000,000 to assist the hospital in the care of the mentally ill and construction of additional buildings. This led to the erection of the wood frame Casino with its high style Queen Anne-Shingle style detailing designed by the firm of Baldwin and Pennington. Framed by a wrap-around porch, the building has an imposing hipped roof, front gable dormer, corbeled interior brick chimney, and expansive entry and window openings. The 1904 superintendent's house, known as Windy Brea, presented the transition of the Queen-Anne-Shingle style and the Colonial Revival style. The no longer extant building stood two-and-a-half-stories high and was clad with square-butt wood shingles. A one bay wide portico supported by paired Tuscan columns and a wide entablature augmented the imposing entry. The wide window openings held Queen Anne style multi-light sashes framed with square-edged casings. The hipped roof was pierced by front gable dormers with ornate cornices, corbeled brick chimneys, and topped by a balustraded walk. The final building from this phase of physical development was the Activities Building, a service structure erected in 1906 between the two main part of the hospital. This two-story brick structure was symmetrically fenestrated with groups of window openings and projecting front gable bays. Like the powerhouse, this high style building was ornamented with a cross gable roof, overhanging eaves ornamented with exposed brackets, and ornate stone lintel moldings and lug sills.

Other architecturally significant historic resources marking the landscape of the Sheppard Pratt Hospital property include:

- Overlook House: the 1929 Tudor Revival style home of the president;
- Norris Cottage: a circa 1895 Queen Anne style stone dwelling erected by the family of a patient;
- Fordham Cottage (now known as the Poe Cottage): a 1921 Colonial Revival style bungalow erected by the family of a patient;
- North Chapman: the Colonial Revival high style brick structure construction in 1929 to the designs of William G. Nolting as a reception and administration building;
- Gibson Wings: the two 1931 wings erected on the now razed Windy Brea; and
- the circa 1924 Queen Anne style barn and two silos.

The natural landscape plan of the property with overlooking vistas, winding roads, tree-lined paths, and gardens should be studied to determine its original 1860 layout. The setting of the property was intricate to Sheppard's image and the hospital's philosophy. Additionally, Calvert Vaux of New York was the architect of a number of buildings in Central Park, New York. Vaux's collaborations with Andrew Jackson Downing and Frederick Law Olmsted, among others, is evident in his numerous and varied contributions to domestic, institutional, and landscape architecture. Although buildings have been added to the property since its establishment in 1860, the picturesque setting as it was originally intended has not been disturbed and is exceptionally significant.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1845

- 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

Acreage of surveyed property .50 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Towson Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 29, 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

USGS Quad: TOWSON
Scale: 1:24,000



570 000
FEET

BA-1845
6609 OSLER ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2488

BA-2487
6508 CRESTWOOD ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY

39° 22' 30"

76° 37' 30"

910 000 FEET

BALTIMORE (JUNC. U.S. 1) 4.4 MI.

363

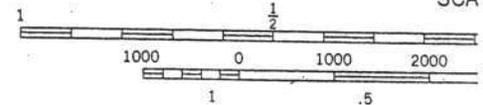
35'

BALTIMORE (JUNC. MD. 147) 3.9 MI. (BAL 1

SCA

ALTIMORE WEST I
5662 I 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





BA-1845
6609 OSLER ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES
4/2001
MD-STATE
SE CORNER

1 of 4



BA-1845

6609 OSLER ROAD

BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPD

SW CORNER

2 of 4



BA-1845

6609 OSLER ROAD

BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERFS

4/2001

MD-SHPD

N ELEVATION

3 of 4



BA-1845

6609 OSLER ROAD

BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERS

4/2001

MO-SHED

OUTBUILDINGS

4 of 4