

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. BA-2760

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

TOWSON QUARTERS

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

historic The Starner House (for 633 Murdock Road)

and/or common The Lees House

**2. Location**

street & number 706 Dunkirk Road

not for publication

city, town Baltimore

vicinity of

congressional district

state MD 21212

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 Jeffrey Lees and Laura M. Lees

street & number 706 Dunkirk Road

telephone no.: 410 377-8008

city, town Baltimore

state and zip code

MD 21212

**5. Location of Legal Description** \*\*for 633 Murdock Road

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse

liber 5331

street & number Towson courts Building, Bosley & Pennsylvania

folio 128

city, town Towson

state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title not applicable

date

federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

# 7. Description

Survey No. BA-2760

**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 attachment.

**DESCRIPTION**

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**EXTERIOR**

The Lees House is at 706 Dunkirk Road in the residential neighborhood of Anneslie in Baltimore County, south of Towson, Maryland. The residence is east of York Road, on the north side of Dunkirk Road between Edgewood and Maplewood Roads. It occupies Lots 50 and 51 of Block H. It was built in 1931.

The residence is a one-and-a-half story, three-bay frame bungalow with asymmetrical facades and an exterior end chimney. The roof was originally gable, with a gable dormer centered on the primary facade. Alterations and additions have changed the roofline on all but the primary facade. The exterior building material throughout, including additions, is painted wood shingle with an asphalt shingle (originally cedar shingle) roof and a stuccoed raised basement. Throughout the building, the windows have a plain wooden architrave.

The primary facade faces south with a 25-foot setback. A porch is an integral part of the facade and runs the length of it. Eight wood steps lead to the wooden floor porch. The porch is supported by three square columns with plain capitals atop a closed shingle baluster. The main entry is a single door with eight panes above two panels. To the left of the door is a pair of 6/1 windows, and to the right of the door is one

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similar window. The two windows in the dormer are 6/1. Wood latticework covers the area under the entire porch.

Moving counter-clockwise around the building, the east facade has an original portion and an addition to the rear. The roofline has been altered on this facade, and the current owner's alterations have decreased the pitch of the original gable. On the first floor of the original portion are two 6/1 windows flanking a projecting square shed roof bay with a semi-circle, six-pane light and a sunlight. The bay is not original. On the second floor of the original portion are two 6/1 windows. One of these windows aligns with the semicircular window of the bay. The other aligns with the window to the right of the projecting bay. There are three, two-light basement windows in the original portion. On the east facade, to the rear of the original section, a gable roof addition projects approximately three feet. The addition has two stories and a metal stove pipe. On the first floor of the addition are two, small 2/2 windows, one facing east and one facing south, and a pair of 6/1 windows. The second floor has a 6/1 window. The basement has one two-light window.

The north facade is entirely non-original to the building and is a work-in-progress. There are two sections to the facade, described from left to right. The first section has a cross gable roof. The first floor has a sliding glass door topped by a single pane fanlight and flanked by single pane, door-length sidelights. On the second floor is a 6/1 window centered on the gable. The second section has a flat roof. The first floor

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of this section has a glass door with a 2/2 window to the right. On the second floor, there is a square tower with a flat roof. The tower aligns with the first floor glass door. The tower facade has three stacked pairs of single-pane windows topped by a single, transom-like light. The other tower facade faces west. It has similar fenestration, with two stacked pairs of windows. There is a basement entrance on the north facade.

The first floor of the west facade has a projecting bay that is original. The bay has a pair of 6/1 windows. To the left of the bay on the first floor is a 2/2 window. To the right of the bay is a chimney, weathered on the right, flanked by four-light casement windows. On the second floor above the bay are two 6/1 windows. There are two windows on the basement level left of the bay.

**INTERIOR**

Major alterations begun in June 1994 are changing the interior of the Lees home, but the open circulation pattern associated with the bungalow style will remain. According to a plan supplied by the current owner, the original house was approximately 25 feet wide by 36 feet long, excluding the porch. The original plan resembled a modified center passage. The living room and dining room were on the left, and a bathroom and circulation space flanked by two bedrooms were on the right. The staircase separates the dining room from the back bedroom. The functions of some of these rooms have changed, but the original plan is evident. The kitchen, which was at the rear of the house, has been completely

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removed and is being rebuilt with a new plan. The upstairs was originally unfinished and unused. Subsequent owners converted the space to bedrooms and a bathroom. The entire second floor is currently being remodeled.

The main entry opens into the living room, which has a fireplace with a stretcher bond brick surround and wood mantel. There is non-original, recessed molded paneling, painted white, above the fireplace. There is a molded baseboard and a flat, unornamented door surround and plinth block. The wood floor is original. Bookcases flank the opening between the living room and dining room. The bookcases have a built-in appearance but are not original. The dining room has a molded chair rail that is not original. Stairs to the second floor are in the dining room. The staircase is open string with a square newel and smaller square cap, molded handrail, and plain rectangular balusters.

Because of extensive remodeling in progress, the preparer of this form saw only the first floor, primarily the living room and dining room.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. BA-2760

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1931 **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 attachment.

## SIGNIFICANCE

### 8-1

The Lees House in the residential neighborhood of Anneslie in Baltimore County, Maryland, was typical of the bungalow style. The bungalow was one of seven styles offered to buyers in a 1929 real estate promotional brochure. Built in 1931 on a 50-foot by 125-foot lot, the house's typicality is less notable in 1994 due to major exterior alterations to the rear facade. The interior, under renovation since June 1994, still retains the open circulation pattern of a bungalow. Although the Lees House is not the best example of a bungalow in the neighborhood, it does contribute to the significance of Anneslie as a whole, if considered in the socio-economic context of a suburb developed for the post-World War I middle class. In its entirety, Anneslie may also be significant for its developer, who had an impact on the growth of Baltimore County.

Anneslie was part of a land grant to the Howard family, which was prominent in Baltimore. The grant included present-day Stoneleigh and was known as Drumquehaussel (alternate spellings exist in deeds and various source material). The landmark of Anneslie is "Villa Anneslie," built circa 1840-1855 as a summer home for Frederick and Anne Harrison. Over time, "Villa Anneslie" became part of the estate of Lennox and Mary A. Birkhead. Between 1922 and 1923, the Birkheads deeded acreage to individuals who in turn deeded the same to Charles H. Steffey Inc., a real estate company with offices on North Charles Street in Baltimore. Steffey Inc.

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purchased approximately 125 acres of the Anneslie estate. In addition to Anneslie, Steffey Inc. developed other suburbs in Baltimore County, including Ten Hills, Lansdowne, Rosemont and Baltimore Highlands.

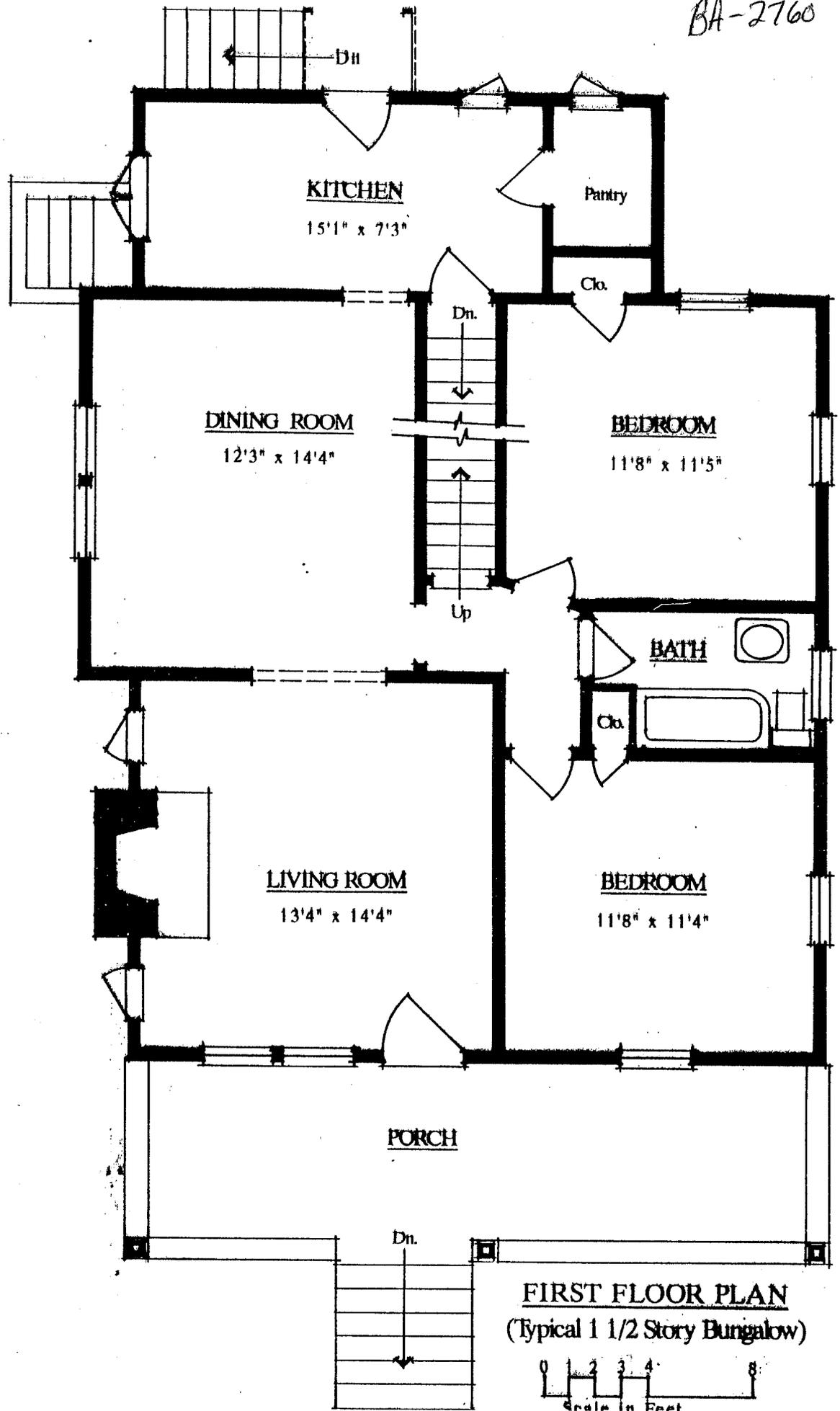
According to the 1929 promotional brochure published by Steffey Inc., development of Anneslie began in June 1922. Its north/south borders are Walker and Register Avenues; its east/west borders are York Road and Sherwood Avenue. Anneslie was one of many suburbs blossoming in the county, north of Baltimore but accessible to it and to Towson by trolley or car. Houses in Anneslie were built throughout the 1920s and 1930s, for prices ranging from approximately \$4,500 to \$8,000 excluding the land price. Promotional literature targeting the middle class touted the development's affordability, location, and conveniences including gas, electricity, sewer connections, and paved roads. Anneslie was considered a successful suburban development of the time.



The Lees House  
706 Dunkirk Road  
Baltimore, Maryland

Plan provided by owner.

BA-2760



**Chain of Title**

633 Murdock Road, Baltimore, MD 21212  
Plat book 7, Folio 40. Anneslie, Block G, Lots 33 & 34

June 26, 1991

Deed transferred from Mahlon G. Little & Grace C. Little to Grace C. Little.

Liber 5331, Folio 128

January 19, 1973

Deed transferred from James H. Canavan, guardian of property of Margaret Katherine C. Britton, to Mahlon G. Little & Grace C. Little (wife), for \$23,000.

Liber 992, Folio 233

April 16, 1936

Deed transferred from James Robert Britton to J. Woodward Britton and Margaret Katherine C. Britton (wife) for \$5.00. [J. Woodward Britton died August 26, 1972, vesting title to his wife.]

Liber 811, Folio 38

January 3, 1929

Deed transferred from Charles K. Starner & Lottie M. Starner (wife) to James Robert Britton & Sarah Elizabeth Britton (wife).

Liber 653, Folio 268

January 20, 1928

Deed transferred from Charles H. Steffey, Inc. to Charles K. Starner for \$35.00.

Liber 555, Folio 317

May 23, 1922

Deed transferred from Charles W. Mulligan & Catherine B. Mulligan (wife) to Charles H. Steffey, Inc. This deed states that the property "shall never be rented or sold to persons of the Negro race. No intoxicating liquors shall be manufactured or sold on the property."

Liber 555, Folio 314

May 23, 1922

Deed transferred from Lennox Birckhead and Mary A. Birckhead (wife) to Charles W. Mulligan.



845 0912 N000022

The Lees House BA-2760  
Baltimore, MD.  
A. O' Shea  
11/27/94  
Maryland SHPO  
Southern view/south facade  
1 of 4



845 0911 N 85 22

The Lees House

BA-2760

Bethesda, MD

A. O'Shea

11/27/94

Maryland SHPO

East facade

2 of 4



8450911 N N N 1 2

The Lees House BA-2760

Baltimore, MD

A O'Shea

11/27/94

Maryland SHPO

north facade

3 of 4



845 0911 H N N 2 2

The Lees House BA-2760  
Baltimore, MD  
A. O'Shea  
11/27/94  
Maryland State  
west facade  
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