

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

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

historic PIKESVILLE ARSENAL POWDER MAGAZINE

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number <sup>38</sup> Sudbrook Lane

not for publication

city, town Pikesville

vicinity of

Councilmanic District  
congressional district

2  
3

state Maryland

county

Baltimore County

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: hall

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

name Kiwanis Club of Pikesville

street & number 4 Sudbrook Lane

telephone no.:

city, town Pikesville

state and zip code MD 21208

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building liber GLB 1941

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue

folio 165

city, town Towson

state MD 21204

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title Maryland Historical Trust Inventory

date (along with arsenal) July 29, 1965

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records 100 Community Place

city, town Crownsville

state MD 21032

# 7. Description

Survey No.

2773  
BA 2793

## 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.

The Pikesville Arsenal Powder Magazine is a rectangular building originally constructed with an inner magazine and protected by outer stone walls. The windows occupy spaces shown on the 1930s HABS drawings as "closed up embasures for the defense of the establishment by means of artillery." The drawing notes also that, "The building was formerly lined with wood sidewalls; all fastenings were countersunk and wood-plugged to avoid a possible spark. The pintles are of bronze." It is more likely that the filled in embasures contained lightly attached stone or brick infill that would blow out in case of an explosion leaving the main walls standing, a method of building displayed at the historic duPont powder works on ther Brandywine at the Hagely Museum near Wilmington, Delaware.

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Title to parcel 7 as shown on the attached plat is vested in the Kiwanis Club of Pikesville, Inc. The description is as follows:

Beginning for the same at a pipe set 240 feet from the end of the second line of a tract of land described in a deed dated February 25, 1819 from James Smith, physician of Baltimore County to United States of America and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore City in Liber W.G. No. 150 folio 197 thence from this beginning and running South 46 degrees 45 minutes 15 seconds East 297.11 feet to the Northwesterly side of Sudbrook Lane 50 feet wide as laid out on Plat No. 54 - 199 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Plat Book 15 C folio 349 thence along the northwesterly side of said Lane by a curve to the Southwest with a radius of 3025 feet a distance of 72.23 feet subtended by a chord South 32 degrees 41 minutes 53 seconds East 72.23 feet thence South 32 degrees 00 minutes 59 seconds West 186.25 feet to a pipe thence leaving said Lane North 34 degrees 12 minutes -  
Containing 1.510 acres of land more or less.

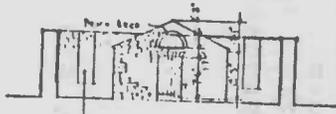
Maryland Historical Trust /  
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

name of property:

Pikesville Arsenal:  
Powder Magazine

2773  
BA 2793-  
MHT Inventory No.

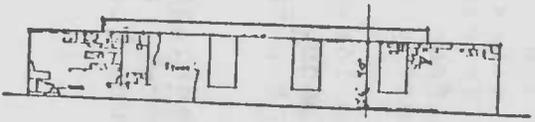


• S-W • ELEVATION •  
INSIDE OF WALL

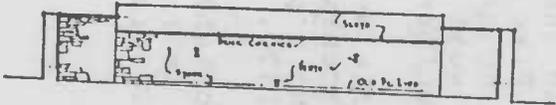
PROBABLY CLOSED UP ENLARGED  
FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE ESTAB-  
LISHMENT BY MEANS OF ARTILLERY



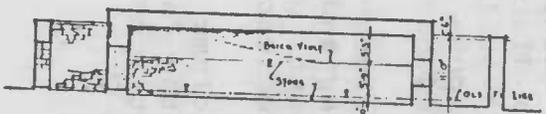
• S-W • ELEVATION •  
OUTSIDE OF WALL



• S-E • ELEVATION •  
OUTSIDE OF WALL



• S-E • ELEVATION •  
INSIDE OF WALL



• LONGITUDINAL • SECTION •

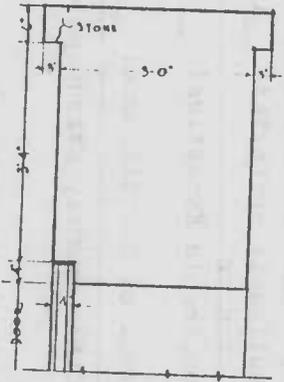


• N-E • ELEVATION •  
INSIDE OF WALL

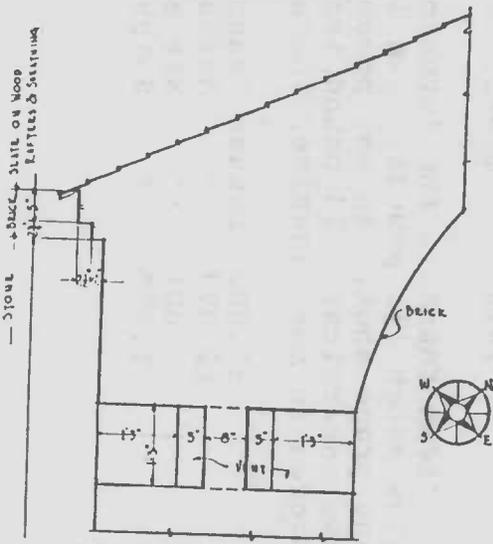
THE BUILDING WAS FORMERLY LINED  
WITH WOOD SIDEWALLS, CEILING  
AND FLOOR. ALL FASTENINGS  
WERE COUNTERSUNK AND WOOD  
PLUGGED TO AVOID A POSSIBLE  
SPARK. THE PINNACLS ARE OF  
BLOCKED.



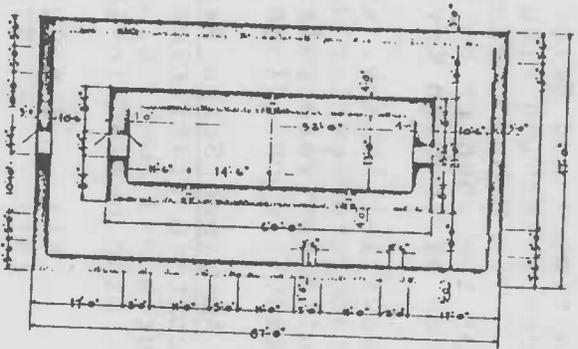
• CROSS • SECTION •  
LOOKING N-E



• 1/4 SCALE • WALL • SECTION • AT • GATE •



• 1/4 SC SECTION • AT • CORNICE •



• PLAN •

• POWDER • MAGAZINE •  
SCALE 1/16" = 1'-0"



L. Enloe, Jr., Dec.  
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICIAL PROJECT 265-6907.  
UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE  
**OLD U.S. ARSENAL**  
PIKESVILLE • BALTIMORE COUNTY • MARYLAND

SURVEY NO.  
MD. 14.

"HISTORIC AMERICAN"  
BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SHEET 14 OF 14 SHEETS

# 8. Significance

Survey No. BA <sup>2773</sup> 2793

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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**

**Builder/Architect**

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.

The U.S. Arsenal was started on land purchased from Dr. James Smith in 1815 at what would four years later be named Pikesville. Dr. Smith saw real estate possibilities for his property along the busy Baltimore and Reisterstown Turnpike Road and named the village for General Zebulon Pike who had discovered Pike's Peak a few years before. The U.S. Government was building nine arsenals in various parts of the country to have weapons stored well inland from the reach of foreign invaders and hostile gunfire from enemy ships.

Pikesville, Albany, and Pittsburgh arsenals were also intended to be laboratories for developing and manufacturing weapons. The main buildings were fairly elegant, befitting a permanent post. Two Pikesville buildings were dedicated in 1820.

The American State Papers (Volume 17) published at Washington in 1834, contain statistics about the "Arsenal near Baltimore," which was "purchased June 18, 1816" at a cost of \$895.13. Expenditures for building peaked in 1817:

1816	\$18,327.86
1817	62,775.47
1818	2,045.95.

Items found in the inventories were tubes, fuzees, portfines, slow match (in pounds), pig-lead, rammers and sponges, worms and grape shot, ladles, powder horns, 24-pound cannon balls, and two unservicable 24-pound iron cannon. Bulk materials, probably stored in the magazine, included:

35,502	pounds	Cannon Powder
12,073	"	Musket Powder
8,001	"	Nitre, refined
1,450	"	Sulphur (pages 496, 488, 500, 502, 510).

Maryland Historical Trust/  
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Continuation Sheet

2773  
BA ~~2793~~  
MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Pikesville Arsenal: Powder Magazine

Section number 8 Page 2

The arsenal complex continued in military use until 1879. The surplus base was offered to the State of Maryland and in 1880 the General Assembly accepted the offer. Several years later, the Baltimore Morning Herald of March 19, 1888, reported in a story entitled, "In Vacant Barracks," that a magazine and laboratory were located beyond the compound and there signal rockets, cartridges, and shells were filled. An explosion took one life in 1831 when fire-works were being prepared for the Fourth of July. At times some 60 tons of powder was in storage at the magazine. The Herald noted of the laboratories, "Here experiments of all sorts have been hazarded, and old jars of chemicals bear silent testimony to the busy brains and skillful hands which were engaged in trying to concoct new instruments of death with which fellow-men might be slain."

The State of Maryland developed the arsenal complex as a home for indigent Confederate veterans; this use continued until 1932, when only two veterans survived and were housed elsewhere. The buildings were used by various health and civic agencies until the late 1940s, when an elaborate restoration turned the site into a headquarters for the Maryland State Police, who continue there today, along with a cadet training program and an underground emergency preparedness center known as MEMA.

The powder magazine was located at the eastern end of the property and was presumably built soon after the 1815 purchase of the property.

During the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration's Historic American Buildings Survey produced measured drawings of the powder magazine and other structures of the arsenal. The magazine drawing is signed by L. Ewald, Jr., but is not dated.

In 1940, the magazine parcel, described as Lot 7, was sold to the Kiwanis Club of Pikesville with some reversionary clauses. That civic group put a new roof on the building and removed the inner magazine walls to turn the old storage building into useful meeting space (Deeds GLB 1941:165).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA <sup>2773</sup>  
~~2793~~

Susanne Moore, National Register Form, "U.S. Arsenal at Pikesville,"  
Maryland Historical Trust, December 1980.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.510

Quadrangle name Cockeysville, Md.

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"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Tax Map 78, Grid 3, Parcel P421. Also verbal description of Lot No. 7, appended.

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

state	None	code	county	code
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state	None	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrain

organization Office of Planning date November 29, 1996

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue telephone (410) 887-3495

city or town Towson state MD 21204

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