

Parris House  
520 Goldsborough Street  
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-413  
Mid Nineteenth Century

A duplex, the Parris House makes a unique contribution to the wide range of nineteenth century architecture remaining in Easton. It is the boldest of the Italianate buildings in the town and a clear statement of one of the signal ideas of the Italianate period - volumetric expression. The overstated brackets are also characteristic of this period. Although bracketed cornices are not uncommon in the town, in this building their potential is best realized.

RACERASE BOND  
SOUTHWORTH COUNCIL  
100% COTTON FIBER

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

2104135504  
T 413

Town of Easton

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Parris House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

520 Goldsborough Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

FIRST

STATE

Maryland 21601

COUNTY

Talbot

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Ruth Parris

Telephone #: 301-822-0133

STREET & NUMBER

520 Goldsborough Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland 21601

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Court House

Liber #: 229

Folio #: 157

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

T-413

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This double house stands on the south side of Goldsborough Street, east of the railroad tracks, in a neighborhood of small two-story frame dwelling of the late nineteenth century.

The frame building is notable for its Italianate detailing. Three stories in height, its third floor is enclosed in a shingled mansard roof.

The building is composed of interpenetrating masses, clearly seen, and representing the interior rooms. The main mass, or block, of the house is four bays wide and three bays deep, a regular, almost cuboid form. Small dormers with curvilinear eaves are found in each bay. Its widely overhanging cornice is supported by ornamental console-type brackets. The frieze is of narrow vertical, beaded boarding. Windows with one over one sashes and louvered shutters are found in each bay on the first and second floors.

Protruding from the front central bays of the structure is another building mass. This is larger in scale than the main block and tall - a full three stories in height. It is more solid in appearance and covered with a flat roof which projects even farther than that on the main portion. Its console brackets are correspondingly larger and the vertical-boarded frieze deeper.

Projecting from the front of this second block are two bay windows which are rectangular on the second floor and half hexagons below. Windows with one over one sashes are used in each face, doubled in the second floor front. Flat roofed brackets and frieze are similar but smaller than those used on the building roof.

In the corners of the building, between the projecting bay windows and the main house block is an entrance porch, one bay wide and two deep. The front door is, of course, in each front corner of the main house block; opposite the steps leading to the porch. Porch detailing includes turned posts, a flat roof with molded fascia and a plain balustrade. There is a roof apron of may little turned rods suspended vertically.

The building is covered by weather-boarding, about five inches wide, painted white. The shutters are black.

This fascinating structure resembles a three-dimensional puzzle of interlocking parts, designed with disciplined use of volumetric elements. Italianate influence is seen in its verticality, its plasticity and bracketed cornices.

The double house is only half occupied and in need of repairs.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

T-413

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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input 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    Mid Nineteenth Century    BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building makes a unique contribution to the wide range of nineteenth century architecture remaining in Easton. It is the boldest of the Italianate buildings in the town and a clear statement of one of the signal ideas of the Italianate, mid-Victorian period - volumetric expression. The overstated brackets are also characteristic of this period. Although bracketed cornices are not uncommon in the town, in this building their potential is best realized.

- L80/F127
- L81/F207
- L82/F117
- L89/F104
- L97/F349
- L229/F151

This property also was a part of Eason's first "development", Caldwell's Addition. Samuel Sherman bought the lot in 1883 and it remained in his family until it was sold in 1932 by Laura E. Tull, one of his heirs, to George M. and Letitia Parris for \$5000.00.

T-413

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Deeds and Land Records, Talbot County Court House.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY NA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

NA

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

STATE None COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant, Cynthia B. Ludlow, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Easton, Incorporated

DATE

September 28, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1171

TELEPHONE Mr. Paul Parsons,  
301-822-2706 President

CITY OR TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

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



14 x 1.92

75% 413

520 GOLDSBOROUGH

T-413

EDSTON, MD

NORTH FACADE

JULY 1976

M FRITZ

F. R. VERNON - WILLIAMS, JR.  
510 DIAMOND STREET  
EASTON, MARYLAND 21601