

BA-3081
The General German Orphan Home
205 Bloomsbury Avenue
Catonsville
Private
1922-26

The General German Orphan Home, now known as The Children's Home, is located at 205 Bloomsbury Avenue in Catonsville, Baltimore County, Maryland. The complex consists of a gateway, three cottages (Ferdinand Meyer Cottage, Venna Reese Cottage, and the J. R. Building), the power house and laundry, and the root cellar. The gateway is located close to Ingleside Avenue and consists of four Flemish bond brick posts, and the end posts have limestone urns. The Power House is a one-story building that is banked into a hill on the west side, with an exposed foundation on the east elevation. It is a five-bay by three-bay structure with a brick foundation and first story walls of one-to-one common bond. The gable roof has a north-south ridge with asphalt shingles and parapets at the north and south ends. In the center of the ridge is an octagonal copper cupola with a finial on the top and boarded-up windows. The west elevation has a center entrance. The Ferdinand Meyer Cottage is a two-story, five-bay by two-bay structure of one-to-one common bond brick with a raised basement of running-bond brick and a gable on hip roof with slate. The main facade faces east. The first story has a new door in the center, with sidelights and a segmentally-arched transom. To each side of the door is a pair of original French doors, each with identical sidelights and transom as the center door. The end bays have triple six-over-one sash with a blind fanlight over the center, creating a Palladian window motif. The J. R. Building is a two-story, three-bay by two-bay "T"-plan structure with a running bond brick foundation, one-to-one common bond brick walls, and a hip roof of slate. The building faces east. The first story has a recessed

entrance in the center with a new door, sidelights, and transom. Above the entrance is a hipped pent roof supported on either side by paired iron brackets. The west bay has tripled pairs of casements with transoms. The Venna Reese Cottage is identical to the Ferdinand Meyer Cottage.

The General German Orphan Association was one such organization. It was founded in 1863 by Pastor Martin Kratt of the German Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church in Baltimore as a response to the rising number of orphans during the Civil War, though it always accepted half orphans and non-orphans if they were needy. The orphan home used several different buildings in their early years, and in October 1919 the orphanage bought the Albert estate, "Belmont," in Catonsville "with the idea of moving the entire establishment to the suburbs." The orphan association hired Catonsville architect Walter Gieske to design the new buildings for their permanent home. Those that were completed in the first phase included the J. R. and Venna Reese cottages and the power house and laundry. The first cottage was occupied in late 1922 and the remaining one early in 1923. Gieske employed a decentralized arrangement of a cluster of residential buildings, with a separate power plant located well off and down hill from them. In this arrangement large-scale institutions such as colleges and hospitals likely influenced him. By 1924 the move to Catonsville was complete. Shortly after the completion of the original buildings Ferdinand Meyer, a Baltimore businessman, donated money to build another cottage, which would take his name. Construction began in 1925 and was finished the following year, and Gieske was responsible for the designs, though he died in May 1926, probably before construction was completed. The mansion house was unfortunately demolished

recently, but the other historic buildings survive and their historic and architectural character is appreciated. Several other new buildings have been added in the past quarter century, but they have been placed away from the original cottages, preserving the original appearance of the early landscape of the orphanage.

7. Description

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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.

The General German Orphan Home, now known as The Children's Home, is located at 205 Bloomsbury Avenue in Catonsville, Baltimore County, Maryland. The complex consists of a gateway, three cottages (Ferdinand Meyer Cottage, Venna Reese Cottage, and the J. R. Building), the power house and laundry, and the root cellar. There are a number of more recent buildings that are not considered here.

The gateway is located close to Ingleside Avenue and consists of four Flemish bond brick posts, the center two both taller and wider than the end posts. All four posts have limestone caps, and the end two also have limestone urns on top of the caps.

The Power House:

The Power House is a one-story building that is banked into a hill on the west side, with an exposed foundation on the east elevation. It is a five-bay by three-bay structure with a brick foundation and first story walls of one-to-one common bond. The gable roof has a north-south ridge with asphalt shingles and parapets at the north and south ends. In the center of the ridge is an octagonal copper cupola with a finial on the top and boarded-up windows. The west elevation has a center entrance with new doors and a six-light transom. There is a one-bay shed roof porch here that has exposed, decorative cut rafter ends. The roof of the main block also has these rafter ends. Two large wrought iron brackets support the porch. On either side of the door is a six-over-one sash, each with a fanlight and marble keystone and impost. The end bays have paired six-over-one sash with seven-light transoms and straight brick jack arches. There is a parapet over the three center bays, and it contains a blind oculus with marble keystones at the cardinal points. There are patterns of decorative tiles at the top in the center and each end of the parapet. All of the parapets have marble copings.

On the north elevation, the east bay is boarded up. The center bay has paired six-over-one sash with a large fanlight that has a marble keystone and impost. The west bay has paired six-over-one sash. There are four tile squares above, and an oculus in the gable end that has plywood infill and marble keystones at the cardinal points. There are three tile squares above the oculus. The first story and gable end of the south elevation are identical to the north elevation. The foundation here has three boarded-up wide openings. The east elevation is three bays, and the center bay projects. It has a three-light sash and a door with four lights over three lying panels in the basement, paired six-over-one sash on the first story, and a parapet with a blind oculus and tile squares that matches that on the west elevation. This bay has a gable roof with an east-west ridge. On the south side of the center bay is a square tower for a smoke stack that has been taken down. The tower has iron bars on the south wall for steps. In the south bay, the foundation has paired doors with lights at the top that are boarded-up, and three lying panels at the bottom. The first story has paired six-over-one sash with a seven-light transom. The north bay foundation has a door opening that is closed up with CMUs. On either side of the doorway is a rubble stone retaining wall that extends to the east. The first story is identical to the south bay on this elevation. There is a concrete pad on the north side of the building and concrete steps in the hillside on the south side of the building.

The lower story of the power house was not accessible at this time. The upper story has a concrete floor and exposed brick walls. The ceiling is open to the roof, and the roof is supported by three wood trusses that pass into the brick walls on the east and west elevations. There are also wood hammer beams set into the brick wall just beneath the trusses to give additional support. The trusses and the roof structure are all natural varnished wood. The trusses support three purlins on each side, and these in turn support two by four rafters and horizontal board sheathing. This was originally one large open room, but it has been subdivided by wire cages, as the building now serves as a shop.

The Ferdinand Meyer Cottage:

The Ferdinand Meyer Cottage is a two-story, five-bay by two-bay structure of one-to-one common bond brick with a raised basement of running-bond brick and a gable on hip roof with slate. The main facade faces east. The east elevation has ten steps in the center with paired three-light casements to each side in the foundation and triple three-light casements in the end bays. The

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first story has a new door in the center, with sidelights that have three lights over two panels. There is a segmentally-arched transom with three lights over the door and one light over each sidelight. It has a marble keystone and impost. To each side of the door is a pair of original French doors, each with three lights over two panels, with identical sidelights and transom as the center door. The end bays have triple six-over-one sash with a blind fanlight over the center, creating a Palladian window motif. They also have a marble keystone and impost, and are set inside a soldier course surround. A plaque above the first story, in the center, is carved "Ferdinand Meyer Cottage." The second story has paired six-over-one sash in the center, with a single six-over-one sash to each side and triple six-over-one sash in the end bays. There are open eaves with decoratively cut rafter ends, and there is a gable wall dormer in the center that has a copper vent. The center three bays project and have a date stone at the east side that is carved "Erected 1925." Between the first and second stories are two tile squares. The east and west elevations of this center section have a typical casement window in the foundation, typical French doors on the first story with two-light fan lights, and a typical six-over-one sash on the second story. There are half round copper gutters and copper scuppers and down spouts.

The east elevation has a vent in the south bay and a typical casement in the north bay of the foundation. The first story has two six-over-one sash with a panel of tapestry brick between them, consisting of herring bone brick with a semicircular arch and marble blocks at the corners. The second story has paired six-over-one sash, with a tile square in the center. The north elevation is ten bays, and the center four bays project. In the center section the foundation has two boarded-up openings to the east and two typical casements to the west. There is a marble water table and four six-over-one sash on the first story. The second story has two six-over-one sash, each one set between the end and center bays, and there is a tile square in the center. There is a vent dormer on the roof that is identical to the dormer on the east elevation. The three east bays have two typical casements and marble steps next to the center section, with an iron railing, in the foundation. The first story has two six-over-one sash and a door with a one light transom. There is a hip roof porch that has standing seam copper roofing and iron posts and railings. The second story has three six-over-one sash. The three west bays have marble steps next to the center section and two typical casements. The first story has the same porch roof as the east bays, but it is supported by iron brackets. The door is on the west side of the center section. The two west bays each have a six-over-one sash. The second story has two six-over-one sash with a blind window in the center that has tapestry brick in a herring bone pattern. The east elevation of the center section has a new door with a one-light transom on the first story and a six-over-one sash on the second story. The west elevation of the center section has a six-over-one sash on the second story. On the west elevation the basement has two typical casements and the first and second stories are identical to the east elevation. There is an interior brick chimney in the center of this elevation, and it has tile squares at the top. There is a copper vent in the gable end.

The interior of the Meyer cottage has an enclosed front porch and a center stair hall behind it with a straight run of stairs along the north wall that ascends to the west. It has a closed stringer, a turned newel post, and an iron railing. There is a plaster cove cornice. On the west is a large room with a fireplace centered on the west wall. It has a firebrick firebox with splayed jambs, a brick surround, tile hearth, and a wood mantelshelf and brackets. There is chair rail and wood architrave, but all the doors are new. The foundation is poured concrete and there are concrete beams supporting the floor. The second story has a large room on the west end with plaster walls and the same window and door trim as the first story.

The J. R. Building:

The J. R. Building is a two-story, three-bay by two-bay "T"-plan structure with a running bond brick foundation, one-to-one common bond brick walls, and a hip roof of slate. The building faces east. On the east elevation the foundation has nine marble steps with iron railings in the center bay and triple three-light casements in each end bay. There is a marble water table. At the southeast corner is a date stone that is not carved. The first story has a recessed entrance in the center with a new door and sidelights that have three lights over one panel. The transom has three lights over the door and one over each sidelight. Above the entrance is a hipped pent roof with standing seam copper, and it is supported on either side by paired iron brackets. The west bay has tripled pairs of three-light casements that have two-light transoms. There is round tile and brickwork under the center window.

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The east bay has tripled pairs of French doors that have three lights over two panels each, and have two-light transoms. The second story has tripled six-over-one sash in the end bays and two six-over-one sash in the center, with a tile square to each side. There is a gable dormer with a copper vent in the center.

The west elevation foundation has two typical casements, the first story has two six-over-one sash, and the second story has two smaller six-over-one sash. In the center is a projecting brick chimney with tile squares near the eave and two at the top. The eaves are opened and have decorative rafter ends. The west elevation of the rear ell is two bays. The foundation has paired two-light casements in the north bay and steps down to a new door in the south bay. This door is flanked by sidelights that are boarded up, and has a transom that matches the south elevation. The first story has a six-over-one sash to the north and a door identical to that on the south elevation in the south bay. There is an open porch with brick piers here. The second story has a six-over-one sash to the north and a brick enclosure above the porch in the south bay, with a six-over-one sash on the west.

On the north elevation, the three center bays are the rear wing or ell. The foundation of the ell has three typical casements, the first and second stories have three typical six-over-one sash, and there is a gabled dormer with a copper vent. The two west bays, which are the back of the main block, have a porch to the east and a six-over-one sash to the west on the first story. The second story has a herring bone brick panel to the east and a six-over-one sash to the west. The east bay, which is also the back of the main block, has a typical six-over-one sash on the first and second stories, and a hip roof porch with copper roofing and iron posts and railing on the first story.

The east elevation of the ell is three bays. The foundation has steps up in the south and center bays, and a boarded-up opening in the north bay. The first story has a new door with a three-light transom in the south bay, and two six-over-one sash. The second story has three six-over-one sash. The east elevation of the main block has paired typical casements in the south bay and a similar arrangement in the north bay, though the north casement has been converted to a vent. On the first story, the south bay has three pairs of French doors with two-light transoms and an iron railing. The center of the railing has a pattern with a square inside a diamond inside a circle bisected by a cross. The north bay has triple paired three-light casements with two-light transoms. Under the center is a round tile that mirrors the pattern in the railing. There is a square tile in the center, between the first and second stories. The second story has paired six-over-one sash in the end bays and a single six-over-one sash in the center. There is an interior brick chimney at the north end of the main block, where the ell is attached to it.

The J. R. Building has a center passage plan with a straight run of stairs on the west elevation that has an iron balustrade, turned newel post and wood handrail, and a closed stringer. The west room is a large living space with a cove cornice and a fireplace centered on the west wall that has a firebrick firebox with splayed jambs, a brick surround, tile hearth, and a wood mantelshelf and brackets. The southeast room has a fireplace on the north elevation with a brick firebox and surround, a tile hearth, and a wood back band only. This room also has a cove cornice. To the north of this room is a pantry with original pantry shelving, and the northeast room is a kitchen with an original pedestal sink.

The Venna Reese Cottage:

The Venna Reese Cottage is a two-story, five-bay by two-bay structure of one-to-one common bond brick with a raised basement of running bond brick and a gable on hip roof with slate. The main facade faces east. The east elevation has ten steps in the center with paired three-light casements to each side in the foundation and triple three-light casements in the end bays. The first story has a new door in the center, with sidelights that have three lights over two panels. There is a segmentally-arched transom with three lights over the door and one light over each side light. It has a marble keystone and impost. To each side of the door is a pair of original French doors, each with three lights over two panels, with identical sidelights and transom to the center door. The end bays have triple six-over-one sash with a blind fanlight over the center, creating a Palladian window motif. They also have a marble keystone and impost, and are set inside a soldier course surround. The second story has paired six-over-one sash in the

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center, with a single six-over-one sash to each side and triple six-over-one sash in the end bays. There are open eaves with decoratively cut rafter ends, and there is a gable wall dormer into the center that has a copper vent. The center three bays project. Between the first and second stories are two tile squares. The east and west elevations of this center section have a typical casement window in the foundation, typical French doors on the first story with two-light fan lights, and a typical six-over-one sash on the second story. There are half round copper gutters and copper scuppers and down spouts.

The east elevation has a vent in the south bay and a typical casement in the north bay of the foundation. The first story has two six-over-one sash with a panel of tapestry brick between them, consisting of herring bone brick with a semicircular arch and marble blocks at the corners. The second story has paired six-over-one sash, with a tile square in the center. There is a brick chimney on the gable ridge at the east end. The north elevation is ten bays, and the center four bays project. In the center section the foundation has two boarded-up openings to the east and two typical casements to the west. There is a marble water table and four six-over-one sash on the first story. The second story has two six-over-one sash, each one set between the end and center bays, and there is a square tile in the center. There is a vent dormer on the roof that is identical to the dormer on the east elevation. The three east bays have two typical casements and marble steps next to the center section, with an iron railing, in the foundation. The first story has two six-over-one sash and the door with a one-light transom. There is a hip roof porch that has standing seam copper roofing and iron posts and railings. The second story has three six-over-one sash. The three west bays have marble steps next to the center section and two typical casements. The first story has the same porch roof as the east bays, but it is supported by iron brackets. The door is on the west side of the center section. The two west bays each had a six-over-one sash. The second story has two six-over-one sash with a blind window in the center that has tapestry brick in a herring bone pattern. The east elevation of the center section has a new door with a one-light transom on the first story and a six-over-one sash on the second story. The west elevation of the center section has a six-over-one sash on the second story. On the west elevation the basement has two typical casements and the first and second stories are identical to the east elevation. There is an interior brick chimney in the center of this elevation, and it has tile squares at the top. There is a copper vent in the gable end.

The Reese Cottage has an enclosed front porch and a center stair hall behind it, with a straight run of stairs along the north wall that ascends to the west. It has a closed stringer, a turned newel post, and an iron railing. There is a plaster cove cornice. On the west is a large room with a fireplace centered on the west wall. It has a firebrick firebox with splayed jambs, a brick surround, tile hearth, and a wood mantelshelf and brackets. There is chair rail and wood architrave, but all the doors are new. The southeast room has a fireplace on the north elevation with a brick firebox and surround, a tile hearth, and a wood back band only. The foundation is poured concrete and there are concrete beams supporting the floor. The second story has a large room on the west end with plaster walls and the same window and door trim as the first story.

To the southwest of the new administration building is a root cellar that had its front on the south, but it is now closed off with a large concrete slab. On the east and west sides of this slab are rubble stone cheek walls. To the east of this location is the site of the former house on the property

8. Significance

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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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates n/a **Architect/Builder** Walter M. Gieske

Construction dates 1922-23, 1925

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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

In nineteenth-century Baltimore Germans made up more than one quarter of the population, but they were segregated from much of city life because of the Know-Nothing party and the nativism movement. As a result, Germans were forced to create their own institutions within the city, and the General German Orphan Association was one such organization. It was founded in 1863 by Pastor Martin Kratt of the German Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church in Baltimore as a response to the rising number of orphans during the Civil War, though it always accepted half orphans and non-orphans if they were needy. The orphan home used several different buildings in their early years, and in 1874 constructed a new building for their own purposes at 230 Aisquith Street. This location suited them for many years, but by World War I things were changing, and the orphan home looked to make another move. Whether the anti-German sentiment aroused by the war played a part in this move is not clear, but the rising popularity of the suburbs clearly had an influence. In October 1919 a Baltimore newspaper noted that the orphanage had bought the Albert estate, "Belmont," in Catonsville "with the idea of moving the entire establishment to the suburbs. It added, "steps will be taken shortly to remodel the buildings as a summer home for the children to be ready for occupancy next year." The choice of location in rapidly growing suburban Catonsville was not surprising. Catonsville had been changing from a summer resort to a year-round community, bolstered by improved transportation and. In addition, Catonsville had always had a large population of Germans. The location on Bloomsbury Avenue was also a good one, as it was in fairly close proximity to the old high school (soon to be an elementary school) on Frederick Road, and right across the street from the planned new high school. Up until this time none of the children completed a full high school education. The Catonsville schools, in fact, could not take all of the children immediately, so after the permanent move some were taught in one of the new cottages. The children spent the summer months of 1920 in Catonsville, and that same year the orphan association hired architect Walter Gieske to design the new buildings for the permanent home. (1)

Walter M. Gieske was the son of Baltimore tobacco dealer Gustav Gieske, a native of Oldenburg, Germany whose summer home, "Waldeck," is now the Sterling-Ashton Funeral Home on Edmondson Avenue. Walter Gieske was born in Catonsville in 1883 and was educated at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and Cornell University's engineering department. He left the latter in his sophomore year and went to work for the Bartlett & Hayward Company in Baltimore, and later the T. H. Symington Company, where he worked as an assistant mechanical engineer. In 1908 he began the practice of architecture on his own, seemingly having had little training for it, as his emphasis had always been engineering. His first known work actually came several years earlier, in 1906, when he designed a house for a brother, Alfred W. Gieske, on Edmondson Avenue, near "Waldeck." Perhaps it was this early experience that influenced him to set off into the field of architecture. In any case, though his office was in Baltimore, Walter Gieske lived at 117 Beaumont Avenue and designed numerous buildings throughout Catonsville, including the High School and the Catonsville Methodist Church. (2)

The Catonsville Argus noted in early April, 1922: "Drawings for the proposed group of buildings for the German General

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Orphan Asylum, Bloomsbury avenue, have been completed and estimates for the work have been asked. The group, which will include several buildings of cottage type, a central dining and assembly hall and a heating and laundry plant, will be erected on the Albert property, known as Belmont, the former home of the late Judge Talbot A. Albert. Besides the new buildings, which will be brick and fireproof throughout, the plans include the remodeling of the mansion. Plans were prepared by Walter M. Gieske, architect. Bids are due April 10." It is not clear whether the plan had been to phase construction from the start, (perhaps relying on the sale of the Baltimore City property to pay the cost of later construction) or whether the cost of constructing all the planned buildings proved to be too high, forcing the orphanage to phase the construction, but by mid-May, that was clearly the plan. The Argus noted: "Several units for the cottage group for the new Catonsville home of the General Orphan Association will be erected at once, at a cost of approximately \$85,000. Contract for the work has been awarded to Milton C. Davis & Son and ground is being broken. . . . Buildings to be erected include two 2-story brick, tile and concrete cottages and a central heating plant and laundry building. A mansion on the property will be remodeled for administration purposes. Plans for the group . . . provide for the eventual construction of several additional cottages and a central dining and assembly hall." (3)

The schedule called for the new buildings to be completed by the fall, but the plans were to move the children out to the new suburban location in the summer, with the old mansion once again to be used as the temporary home on the 44-acre tract. The cornerstone was laid in July, but no other reports of the progress and completion could be located. Undoubtedly, the buildings were not done by fall, as planned. Those that were completed in the first phase included the J. R. and Venna Reese cottages and the power house and laundry. Gieske employed a decentralized arrangement of a cluster of residential buildings, with a separate power plant located well off and down hill from them. In this arrangement he was likely influenced by large-scale institutions such as colleges and hospitals, and was likely very familiar with the Spring Grove Mental Hospital, just to the east of the orphanage, and the Springfield Mental Hospital in Sykesville, where he had designed one of the cottages in c. 1907. In the late nineteenth century smaller, separate cottage buildings had gained preference over large, monolithic structures such as the orphanage had in Baltimore, and this trend had continued into the 1920s. Where balanced plans had reigned, however, Gieske broke up the symmetry by turning the buildings slightly, so they did not align. This probably had something to do with his choice of style for the buildings. The decorative tiles, the coarse brickwork of the walls, with decorative bands and panels, and the open-rafter eaves are all characteristic of the informality of the arts and crafts movement of the last quarter century, at the same time that the buildings themselves are symmetrical. A formal arrangement would not have worked with these buildings, though the arrangement is hardly picturesque, in effect just barely breaking the symmetry of the layout, just as each building has elements that barely break its symmetry. An important part of this planning was the availability of the railroad to bring in the large amount of supplies, especially coal to fuel the heating plant. The Catonsville Short Line already passed near the property, bringing supplies to Spring Grove Hospital and to businesses on Frederick Road in downtown Catonsville, such as John S. Wilson's lumber yard. (4)

The first cottage was occupied in late 1922 and the remaining one early in 1923. By 1924 the move to Catonsville was complete. Shortly after the completion of the original buildings Ferdinand Meyer, a Baltimore businessman, donated money to build another cottage which would take his name. The Catonsville Argus noted in October 1925: "Work has started on another dormitory cottage on the grounds of the German General Orphan Asylum, on Bloomsbury avenue, to cost \$40,000. Plans for the building were prepared by Architect Walter M. Gieske. The construction will be of brick and will be fireproof. The plan of the cottage is similar to the group of buildings on the property."

The new cottage was identical to one of the existing buildings, with the exception of a fireplace and chimney that were eliminated. Whether this had been planned from the beginning, and whether the plans Gieske devised for the orphanage called for additional buildings once funds were raised, is unknown, but no new buildings were added until 1958. A pool was constructed in the interim, in 1938. Gieske died of pneumonia at an early age in May 1926, probably before the last cottage was completed, making it likely his last work as an architect. Followed by the Great Depression and World War II, this likely

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combined to impede the inertia of expansion. The mansion house was unfortunately demolished recently, but the other historic buildings survive and their historic and architectural character is appreciated. Several other new buildings have been added in the past quarter century, but they have been placed away from the original cottages, preserving the original appearance of the early landscape of the orphanage. (5)

Notes:

- (1) Otto H. Franke, "One Hundred Years of the General German Orphan Home in Baltimore, 1863-1963." The Children's Home Archives.
- (2) Matthew Page Andrews, Tercentenary History of Maryland, v. III, (Baltimore: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1925), pp. 655-56. Walter Gieske obituary, Diehlman-Hayward File, Maryland Historical Society. Argus (Catonsville), 22 May 1926, p. 3.
- (3) Argus (Catonsville), 1 Apr. 1922, p. 3. Argus (Catonsville), 13 May 1922, p. 3.
- (4) Argus (Catonsville), 15 July 1922, p. 3.
- (5) Franke, "One Hundred Years." Argus, (Catonsville) 17 Oct. 1925, p. 3. Argus (Catonsville), 22 May 1926, p. 3

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-3081

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 10 A.

Acreage of historical setting 42.99

Quadrangle name Baltimore West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The surveyed area centered around the standing historic structures.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short

organization _____

date 01/27/2003

street and number 610 Register Ave.

telephone 410-377-4953

city or town Baltimore

state MD zip code 21212-1915

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 not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3081

Name General German Orphan Home

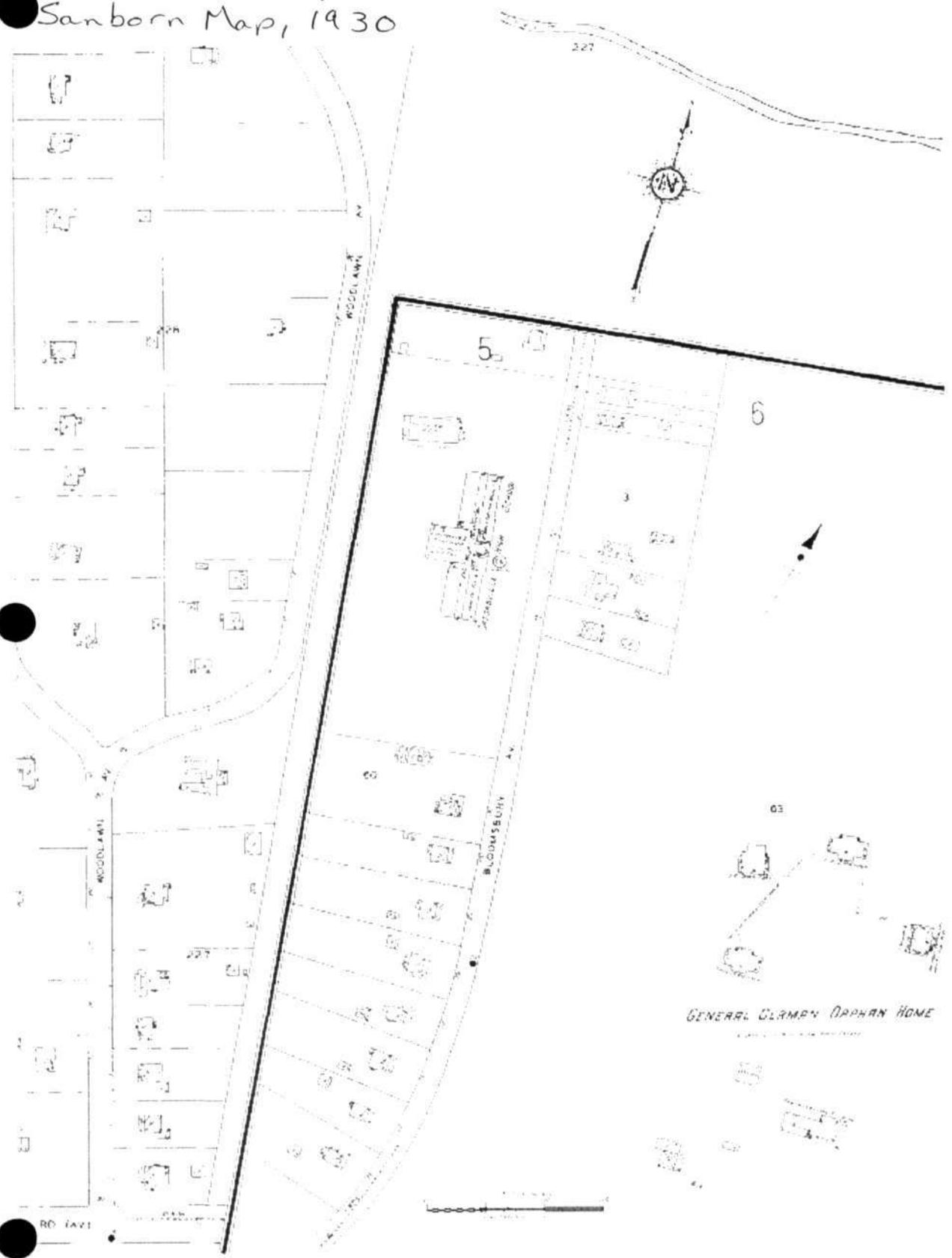
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

See endnotes

BA-3081
General German Orphan
Home
205 Bloomsbury Ave.
Sanborn Map, 1930

MAR 1930
CATONSVILLE
MD.



GENERAL GERMAN ORPHAN HOME

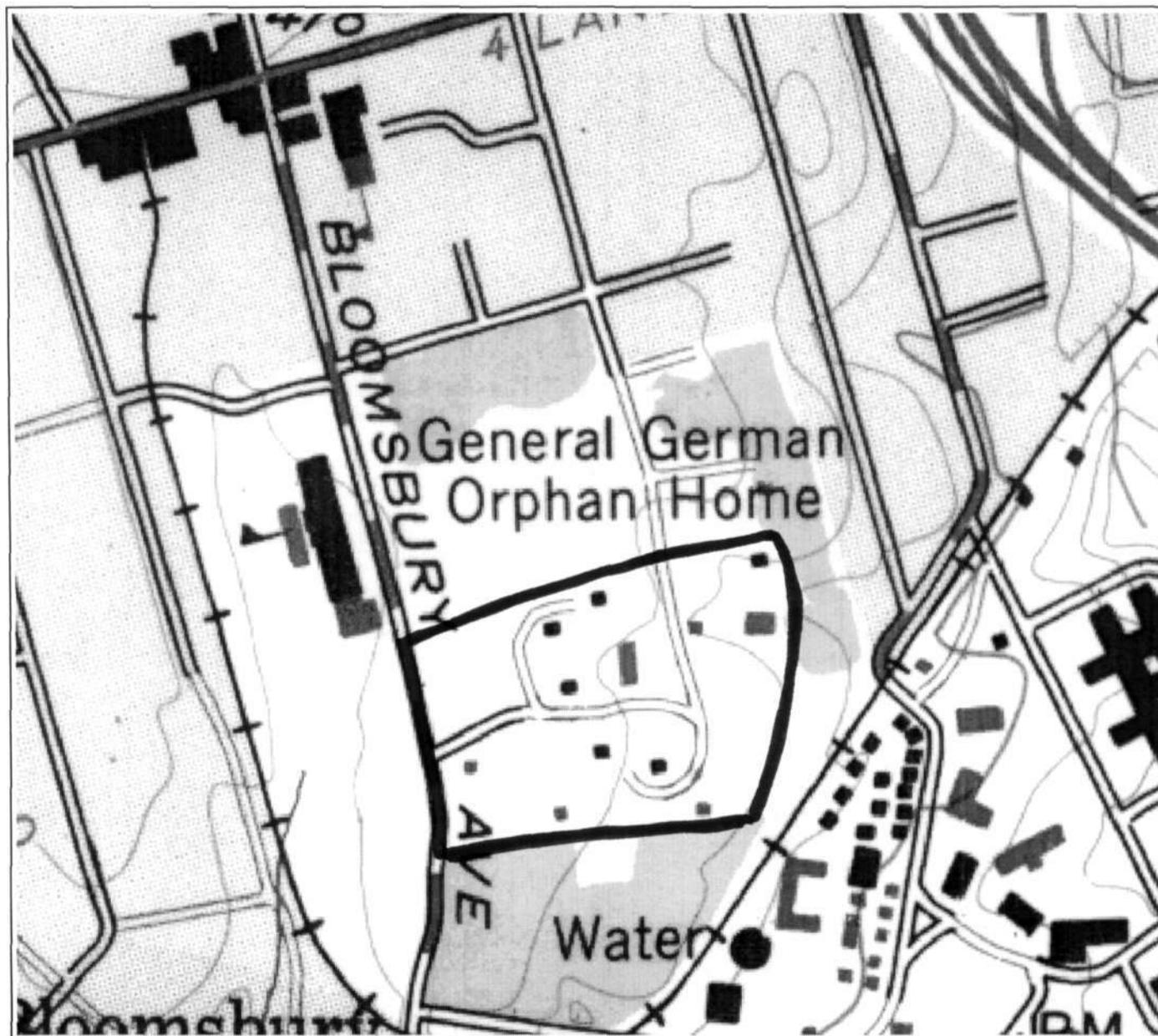
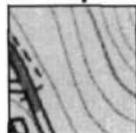
MERLIN Online Map

Base Maps

3.75' Quarter Quad
Grid



Baltimore West Quad
7.5' Topo



BA-3081
General German
Orphan Home
205 Bloomsbury Ave.

N 177830.80m E 423485.10m



Coordinates at center of image in Maryland State Plane, NAD 1983 meters
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BA - 3081

General German Orphan Home

205 Bloomsbury Ave

Balto. Co, MD

Ken Short

Dec. 2002

MD SHPO

Gateway - uw fr. west

1/10



BA - 3081

General German Orphan Home

205 Bloomsbury Ave.

Balto. Co, MD

Ken Short

Dec. 2002

MD SHPO

Verna Reese Cottage - S. eled.

2/10



BA-3081

General German Orphan Home

205 Bloomsbury Ave.

Balto. Co., MD

Ken Short

Dec. 2002

MD SHPO

Venna Reese Cottage - Stair hall

3/10



BA-3081

General German Cipher Home

205 Bloomsbury Ave

Balt. Co, MD

Ken Skort

Dec. 2002

MD SHPO

J. R. Cottage - W. 8 S. elev =

4/10



BA - 3081

General German Orphan Home

205 Bloomsbury Ave.

Balto. Co., MD

Ken Short

Dec. 2002

MD SHPO

J.R. Cottage - S & E elevs.

5/10



BA-3081

General German Orphan Home

205 Bloomsbury Ave.

Balto. Co., MD

Ken Short

Dec. 2002

MD SHPO

Ferdinand Meyer Cottage - S. elev

6/10



BA - 3081

General German Orphan Home

205 Bloomsbury Ave

Balto. Co., MD

Ken Short

Dec. 2002

MD SHPO

Ferdinand Meyer Cottage - N. & W. clues

7/10



BA-3081

General German Orphan Home

205 Bloomsbury Ave.

Balto. Co., MD

Ken Short

Dec. 2002

MD SHPO

Power house - W. & S. elevs

8/10



BA - 3081

General German Orphan Home
205 Bloomsbury Ave.

Balto. Co, MD

Ken Short

Dec. 2002

MD SHPO

Powerhouse - E. eley

9/10



BA-3081

General German Orphan Home

205 Bloomsbury Ave.

Balto. Co., MD

Ken Skort

Dec. 2002

MD SHPO

Root Cellar - S. elev.

10/10