

B-1390

The Mount

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 04-12-2011

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☒
no ☐

Property Name: The Mount- 3706 Nortonia Road Inventory Number: B-1390
Address: 3706 Nortonia Road City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21216
County: Baltimore City USGS Topographic Map: Baltimore West
Owner: Uniting For Life, Inc. (Roland O. Campbell) Is the property being evaluated a district? NO
Tax Parcel Number: 15 Tax Map Number: n/a Tax Account ID Number: 15032880011
Project: Maryland Historical Trust - Capital Grant Agency: Maryland DHCD
Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? ☐ yes ☒ no

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: _____

NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☐ yes District Name: _____

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☐ yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☒ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☒ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Mount, which is believed to have been built between 1850-1858, was designed by William H. Reasin, for James Carey, a prominent member of the Baltimore Friends' Society, and was one of the many estates in the Walbrook area. William H. Reasin (1817-1867) was an architect who an early practitioner in the use of architectural cast iron. His most prominent work may be the Baltimore Sun headquarters completed in 1850. This building was the largest iron-skeleton-framed and iron-faced commercial structure completed in the United States at the time. Reasin worked in collaboration with James Bogardus whose career was also launched by the completion of the Sun's headquarters. In addition, Reasin designed a number of downtown Baltimore's cast-iron commercial structures including:

- William McAnn House, 35 S. Gay Street
- Adams Express Company, 164 W. Baltimore Street
- T.G. Little & Co., Calvert Street near Mercy

Reasin was also a member of the Maryland Institute for the Promotion of Mechanical Arts, an association of investors, scientists, and manufacturers based on the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. Other residential and institutional projects include:

- Henry James House, Paca and Lombard Streets

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☐ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☒ None

Comments: ~~The Mount represents a progression to cast iron building construction and was designed by William H. Reasin, a pioneer of cast iron design.~~ *Outstanding example of Italian Villa style, designed by Baltimore architect Wm. H. Reasin; home of philanthropist James Carey.*
Catherine Brown, IMPART Intern 01/10/05

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 1

B-1390

- Captain James Myers' House near Darlington, Harford County
- Swedenborgian Church, Orchard Street
- Church of the Holy Trinity, Churchville, MD
- Trinity Episcopal Church, Broadway & Pratt Streets
- Fire House No. 6, Gay and Ensor Streets
-

The Mount is five-bays and two story stone building in the early Victorian style (Second Empire). The middle bay pops out and is capped with a low-pitched pediment. Its most prominent feature, a third-story cupola, provides views to downtown Baltimore. The Mount includes many of the original features and design philosophy advocated by Andrew Jackson Downing in his seminal work, *The Architecture of Country Houses*, which includes floor plans for a number of styles including the Italian villa on which The Mount is modeled.

Italian villas were preferred in the Middle States and represented a combination of country and town roofs. While many of the original interior features have been removed, basic design elements indicate that Jackson's principles were evident in The Mount's design. Plain large windows absent of massive or ornate dressing are evident throughout the first floor, the porch includes simple arch columns and the tower gives "picturesqueness...to the whole composition." There is a rear staircase and small bedroom on the third floor that are likely to have been used by servants.

Downing identified three criteria that were important to selecting a villa's location: view, shelter and position for the kitchen and outbuildings. The Mount's angled setting could have been initially intended to take advantage of views of the Gwynns Falls Park. The topography includes a number of steep sites; the front of the house is positioned at the crest of the slopes, while the rear to be at the flatter elevation, possibly providing easier access for deliveries.

The Mount's owner, James Carey (1821-1894), was an active member of Baltimore's Friends Society and participated in a number of philanthropic activities. He and his wife helped found the Lombard Street Meeting House between Howard and Eutaw Streets to provide an alternative location for city residents. He was Clerk of the Monthly Meeting and Baltimore Quarterly Meeting as well as Overseer, Elder and Assistant Clerk of the Yearly Meeting. Mr. Carey was the director of three banks, helped found and was president of the Beneficial Savings Bank and helped organize the Boys' Saving Branch which eventually became the Provident Savings Bank. Charitable activities include trustee of the Thomas Wilson Fuel Saving Society, the Miles While Beneficial Society, the Baltimore Manual Training School for Boys, and the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

The building is experiencing significant deterioration with active leaks necessitating immediate repairs to the exterior stone work, wood trim and windows. Some interior walls are actually collapsing from water damage. There is theft and ongoing vandalism at the property.

Prepared by: Catherine Brown, IMPART Intern

Date Prepared: 01/10/05

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-1390

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic The Mount – 3706 Nortonia Road

other

2. Location

street and number 3706 Nortonia Road, 2nd Floor Rear not for publication

city, town Baltimore, MD 21216 vicinity

county Baltimore City

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

name Uniting For Life, Inc. (Roland O. Campbell, Jr.)

street and number 674 Reisterstown telephone (410)-486-0100 ext.11

city, town Pikesville state MD zip code 21208

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Court House liber 1961 folio 454

city, town Towson tax map 15 tax parcel n/a tax ID number 15032880011

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	
☐ district	☐ public	☐ agriculture	☐ landscape	Contributing
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ commerce/trade	☐ recreation/culture	Noncontributing
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ defense	☐ religion	☐ buildings
☐ site		☐ domestic	☐ social	☐ sites
☐ object		☐ education	☐ transportation	☐ structures
		☐ funerary	☐ work in progress	☐ objects
		☐ government	☐ unknown	☐ Total
		☐ health care	☒ vacant/not in use	
		☐ industry	☐ other:	
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
				0

7. Description

Inventory No. B-1390

Condition

☐ excellent	☒ deteriorated
☐ good	☐ ruins
☐ fair	☐ altered

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

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8. Significance

Inventory No. B-1390

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
☐ 1600-1699	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ health/medicine	☐ performing arts	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ archeology	☐ education	☐ industry	☐ philosophy	
☒ 1800-1899	☒ architecture	☐ engineering	☐ invention	☐ politics/government	
☐ 1900-1999	☐ art	☐ entertainment/ recreation	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion	
☐ 2000-	☐ commerce	☐ ethnic heritage	☐ law	☐ science	
	☐ communications	☐ exploration/ settlement	☐ literature	☒ social history	
	☐ community planning		☐ maritime history	☐ transportation	
	☐ conservation		☐ military	☐ other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder William H. Reasin

Construction dates 1858

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.)

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Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-1390

Name

Continuation Sheet

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. B-1390

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 30,240 sq. ft. (0.70 acres)
Acreage of historical setting 0.70 acres
Quadrangle name Baltimore West

Quadrangle scale: 1:50,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Mount is located on a 180x168 ft lot (0.70 acres).

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Catherine Brown, IMPART Intern		
organization	Maryland Historical Trust	date	01/10/05
street & number	100 Community Place	telephone	410-514-7600
city or town	Crownsville	state	MD 21032

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

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Map center is UTM 18 355080E 4352384N (WGS84/NAD83)

Baltimore West quadrangle

Projection is UTM Zone 18 NAD83 Datum

M=-11.164
G=-1.065

The Mount

Reference Sheet for images taken on 1.25.04

Photos taken by Roland O. Campbell, Jr.

- 1) Exterior S. W. View
- 2) Exterior front view
- 3) 1st. fl. Hallway view towards rear
- 4) 2nd. Fl. Hallway view of wall and ceiling
- 5) 3rd. fl. To 2nd. Fl. View of hallway.
- 6) 1st. fl hallway view towards front.
- 7) 3rd. view through damaged wall
- 8) 3rd. fl. Wall damage
- 9) west side view of deteriorating window and wall
- 10) Front porch east to west view
- 11) Front view towards porch ceiling and roof wood trim
- 12) Front Porch damaged west side corner
- 13) Porch and downed tree
- 14) View of large cracks in exterior east side of building & deteriorating oval granite window
- 15) Close up of this window showing stone falling out.
- 16) More distant view of same window



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