

BA-1242

## John Sumwalt House

### **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](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 06-23-2004***

8/79

BA 1242

408 MAIN STREET  
Reisterstown, Maryland

Private

408 MAIN STREET is a small but distinguished traditional house of the Greek-revival period, its separate hall with a staircase giving great sophistication to the two-room parlor-and-kitchen plan.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

408 Main Street

6th

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

**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

Christine Johansson

Telephone #: 833-0432

STREET & NUMBER

408 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21136

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County

Liber #: 5648

Folio #: 54

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson, Maryland

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

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

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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

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

408 MAIN STREET is a two story brick house, three bays in length, closely oriented to the street, facing east. Extending west behind its north end is a lower two-story two-bay brick wing, now with a low-pitched shed-roof falling to the west; originally it fell to the south. The original house (including the wing) dates from the 1840-1855 period. There is no joint between the house and its wing. Walls are of common bond, every sixth course headers. In the twentieth century, the rear wing was lengthened one bay toward the west and widened toward the south, the latter addition possibly replacing an original porch. Both additions are of frame. A modern small square porch shelters the principal entrance in the southerly bay of the east front and the two first story windows to the north have been opened together as a "picture window" with a separate entrance into the front room within. Original windows elsewhere are 6/6 and louvred blinds remain on the front. Exposed wooden lintels support the masonry above the front windows while brick jack arches are above the windows of the north side. The cornice is of simple corbeled brick. A brick chimney rises flush above the north gable.

Within, a hall extends through the southerly bay, containing an open stair which rises to the second floor; the round rail is supported by turned newels in the form of a Doric column, and rectangular balusters. A single room is north of the hall in each story. Some original detailing remains including doors with two tall panels, corner-block architraves and some hardware. Rooms of the rear wing were altered and refinished when the roof was raised. (First floor rooms, the cellar and the attic were inaccessible for inspection.)

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local history	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The land on which this house stands was part of Brotherly Love, owned by John Reister. On January 12, 1793, the property, consisting of two acres, was deeded by Reister to his daughter, Catherine Mayberry. Catherine, by this date, was twice a widow, having married Roland Smith, Jr. in 1772; and, after his death in 1781, she married Francis Mayberry who must have died prior to the 1790 Census. Both her husbands were store-keepers and Catherine continued in this tradition as a widow. Her father deeded her the land "in Consideration of the natural love and affection and good will which I do have and bear unto my well beloved Daughter Catherine Maybury(sic) and her children". It contained the land on which the Mayberry shop stood. (BC Deeds WG LL:216) (Marks op.cit., p. 53-55) The present structure was not built until much later.

Upon Catherine's death, the property was to be divided among her three daughters, 1/3 to Mary Smith, 1/3 to Margaret Smith, and 1/3 to Elizabeth Maybury. This occurred in 1841. It is in Mary Smith's portion (the southern-most) that we are most interested as this eventually became the site of #408.

Mary Smith married Jacob Weist and, eventually moved west. In 1842, the Weists of Preble Co., Ohio deeded this land to Solomon Choate. (TK 320/254) It was Choate who had the present house built. The acreage on which it stood was .21 of an acre. When he died in 1861, he left this property (among others) to his daughter Maria R. Choate, (BC Wills JLR 2/137) "Which said Maria R. Chaote afterwards married James H. Berryman (1863) and died interstate in the year 1910, leaving surviving as her sole heirs at law, her husband, the said James H. Berryman who is since deceased (1918) and three children, the said Bettie M. Berryman, J. Edgar Berryman and Anne S. Berryman in whom the title to said property is now vested". (WPC 513/89)

In 1922, Bettie Berryman deeded the property to George W. Baker and wife. (WPC 549/587)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

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INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

408 Main Street  
Reisterstown

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Significance, continued

The Bakers sold it to Lewis Bihy and wife in the same year. (WPC 560/356)

The Bihys sold the property in 1929 to Lillian Russell, widow (WHM 816/272). She ran a general store there.

In 1941, Lillian Russell sold to John Bruehl and his wife (CWB Jr 1170/399).

In 1942, John Bruehl sold to George L. Gill and wife Jane (CHK 1217/531).

The house was finally sold by Mrs. Gill to Birger E. Johansson in 1976 (EHK, Jr 5648/54).

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**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Lillian Marks, Reisters Desire (Baltimore, 1975)  
Land Records, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .21 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY** Mrs. Helen Horsham, Volunteer Researcher

NAME / TITLE	James T. Wollon, A.I.A.	DATE	7/79
ORGANIZATION	Historic Resiterstown, Inc.	TELEPHONE	833-3078 (Ms. Ives-Proj.Coop.)
STREET & NUMBER	430 Main Street	CITY OR TOWN	Reisterstown, Maryland 21136
CITY OR TOWN		STATE	

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



BA 1242

408 Main St  
Reist. Md.

Carol Pollack  
478  
East.