

AL-IV-A-006

Decatur Street Row Houses

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: 12-11-2003

MAGI # 0140062404

AL-IV-006

13

Form 10-200
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Allegany
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:

200-208 Decatur Street

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Row houses

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

200, 202, 204, 206, 208 Decatur Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Cumberland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY:

Allegany

CODE

001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building	☐ Public	☒ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site ☐ Structure	☒ Private	☐ Unoccupied	☐ Restricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Preservation work in progress	☐ Unrestricted
			☒ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☒ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Multiple private owners (See continuation sheet No. 1)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Allegany County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

30 Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Allegany
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☒ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered		☐ Moved	☒ Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The group of five row houses sets on the westerly side of Decatur Street on the northwesterly corner of Fulton Street, in the third block north of Baltimore Avenue in Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland. The properties are known as numbers 200, 202, 204, 206, and 208 Decatur Street.

The row consists of five adjoining brick structures with a common facade and a brick cornice. The bond of the brick is American Common (7 stretchers to 1 header). Each house is two and a half stories high with a cut stone foundation and three bays across the Decatur Street facade. The southerly end building (200) has four bays along the Fulton Street side. Each bay has brick flat arches. The common walls between the units and the northerly and westerly end walls extend above the roof line. Each of these walls contain double interior chimneys except the wall between 200 and 202 which appears to have had only one chimney originally. 208 was covered in recent years with modern siding. The roofs of 200, 202, and 204 have asbestos coverings. 206 and 208 have tin roofs. Each unit has a masonry stoop.

206 and 208 have large modern windows in the center bays with doorways in the outer bays. The first floor of 208 houses a dry cleaning establishment (Ray the Reliable Cleaner). The entrances for 200, 202, 204 are in the southerly bay with windows in the other bays. 206 has a transom with three lights above the main entrances. The transoms above the entrance at 202 and 204 is closed off but visible. The door sills of 202, 204, and 206 project out slightly.

There is evidence that the Decatur Street entrance for 200 may have originally been in the center bay. The flat arch above the center bay, now a window, extends beyond the width of the window on both sides. The top foundation stone immediately below the window projects out similar to the door sills of the other sections. The present door sill is flush with the foundation wall. There is a flat arch above the present doorway, however, it is about a foot above and there is no transom. The southerly wall of 200 has a doorway in the third bay west of Decatur Street. This doorway also shows signs of alteration, possibly a window opening originally. The cut stone foundation extends west only to the second bay, the rest of the foundation is made of rubble stone.

Most of the windows of the row have double-hung, wooden sashes with six over six lights. The bottom sashes of the first floor windows on the facade and first two windows along Fulton Street of 200 and the upper level windows of 206 have one light. The external ends of the window frames are flat--200 through 208 Decatur Street--and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

circa 1830's to 1840's

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ Philosophy☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature☐ Italian☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This group of mid nineteenth century row houses is important for its architecture. It represents an urban form of domestic architecture that is not commonly found in Cumberland, Maryland. The row house, a major tool for defining urban scale and space,¹ was overshadowed in popularity in this Western Maryland town by the detached and semi-detached house, even after late nineteenth century industrialism created the pressure for more housing and denser land occupation.

The Decatur Street group is one of the oldest rows remaining in the city. It was built in the 1840's or early 1850's. Decatur Street is a part of Smith's Addition to Cumberland and was laid out about the mid 1840's. The row house group is shown on the 1353 Map of Cumberland.

Decatur Street was a fashionable residential neighborhood well into the twentieth century. It was named in honor of Commodore Stephen Decatur, hero of the American expeditions against the Barbary pirates. The street never attained the "upper class" status that was associated with the Washington Street area although various professional families resided along it. This group of row houses is indicative of the atmosphere that once characterized the street. Neither pretentious or massive, the building has a refined and intimate quality showing the scale of human use. Its classically lined facade creates a rhythm that is carried along the street in the facades of other mid nineteenth century classical buildings. In recent years the area has begun to decline and urban blight threatens to destroy this important part of Cumberland's heritage.

¹Vincent Scully, American Architecture and Urbanism.
(New York: Praeger Publishers, 1969) pp. 80-83.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Allegany	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Row houses

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY, continued

200 A. L. Beall, Owner 208 Decatur Street Cumberland, Maryland	432-263 20' x 72'
202 Chester C. King Route 4, Brice Hallow Road Cumberland, Maryland	435-573 20' x 72'
204 Chester C. King Route 4, Brice Hallow Road Cumberland, Maryland	295-179 20' x 72'
206 A. L. Beall 206 Decatur Street Cumberland, Maryland	412-207 19' x 72'
208 W. Raymond Beall 208 Decatur Street Cumberland, Maryland	438-653 19' x 72'

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

the sills are of wood. None of the exterior doors appear to be original. The outer edge of the window frames are flat with a bead.

Renovations have been made to the interiors, however, bits of the original fabric remain. Some of the woodwork in the front room of 202 is simple in design and characteristic of the late Neo-Classical period.

The general condition of the structures is fair to good.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

AL-IV-006

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland.
 Beynon, John. Map of Cumberland, Maryland. 1853. (Allegany County Historical Society, Cumberland, Maryland.)
 Scully, Vincent. American Architecture and Urbanism. (New York: Praeger), 1969.
 Thomas, James W. and T.J.C. Williams. History of Allegany County, Maryland. 2 Vol. Chambersburg, Pennsylvania: Tittsworth Publishing, 1928.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	0 . .	0 . .		39° 39' 19"	78° 45'	32"
NE	0 . .	0 . .				
SE	0 . .	0 . .				
SW	0 . .	0 . .				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 100 feet by 72 feet

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Ronald L. Andrews, Consultant--Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION

Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, Inc.

DATE

July 24, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:

Suite 510, Algonquin Motor Inn

CITY OR TOWN:

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

Arthur C. Townsend

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

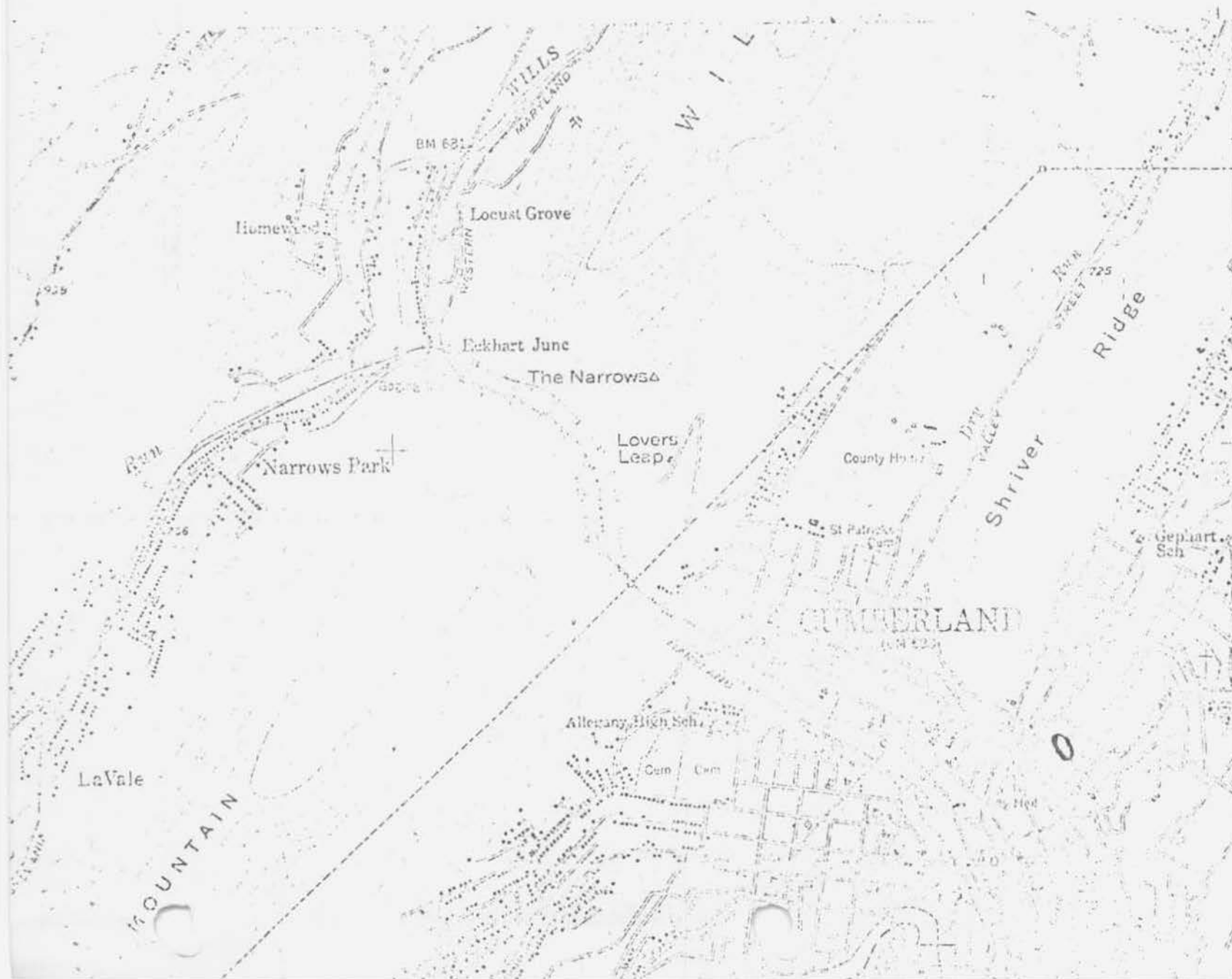
Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



HELFORD VALLEY, PA. 13 MI.
BEDFORD, PA. 29 MI.

FLINTSTONE 12 MI.
HARRISBURG 37 MI.

AL-IV-A-006
200-208
Decatur Street

ROW HOUSES

LAT 39° 39' 19"
LONG 78° 45' 32"

20,000 FEET
(W. VA.)



AL-IV-006

Row 1000 al 200-208 DECATUR STREET, CUMBERLAND