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152-156 Main Street
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county and state

Located on the triangular lot of land formed by the intersection of Main and Francis Streets, the building at 152-156 Main Street was originally constructed as two separate buildings, one of which was a ca. 1840 Federal building.¹ The buildings underwent several modifications and two periods of significant alterations between 1897 and 1903, 1913 and 1921 and after 1954. The building stands today as a 2-1/2-story brick building designed in a Colonial Revival style from the post-1954 period. Originally consisting of two buildings, one-rectangular in plan, the other L-shaped, that were merged and later modified, the current building has a wedge-shaped footprint. The building has Flemish bond brick walls with major alterations in five-and six-course bond. It is covered with a straight-pitched false mansard roof and is characterized by its 20th-century Colonial Revival door surrounds and window treatments.

The original buildings on the site consisted of a two-story, L-shaped brick building located at the tip of the triangular lot of land and a smaller, one-story brick building abutting the northwest end of the building and facing Main Street.² The buildings were historically designated 152-154 and 156 Main Street, respectively). The L-shaped building consisted of a multi-bayed facade facing Main Street and a two story rear ell extending towards Francis Street. Both wings of the building were covered with gable roofs--although they do not appear as a cross gable; an exterior end chimney stood against the long side wall (facing Francis Street).

Between 1897 and 1903, the L-shaped building (152-154 Main Street) on the site was altered: the gable roof of the building was replaced by a hipped roof and projecting show windows were built on the Main Street elevation and the southeast end wall facing the harbor. The two wings of the building, which had historically been

¹ The date of construction was given as ca. 1840, because the building definitely stood on the site by 1858 and appears as a late Federal-style building from the early to mid-19th century (both according to the 1858 Sachse's Bird's Eye View of Annapolis). The Flemish bond brickwork provides argument for an earlier date; however, until an earlier date can be proven a ca. 1840 date is less speculative.

² The L-shaped brick building is visible on the 1858 Sachse's Birds Eye View of Annapolis. It is difficult to discern, however, if it is indeed one building or two separate buildings placed perpendicular to one another. In any case, by 1885, according to the Sanborn Maps this L-shaped structure appears as a single building. The one-story building is not visible on the Sachse View, but is shown on the 1885 Sanborn and historic photographs of the street.

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used for separate purposes were merged into a single space.³

Around 1908, the L-shaped building was again modified, according to the 1908 Sanborn map which notes that the building was vacant and undergoing remodelling. Between 1913 and 1921, the thirteen-foot-high, single-story brick building (156 Main Street) was raised to a twenty-foot, two-story building. After 1954, the two wings of the L-shaped building were filled in, the two separate buildings were combined into one, and the building was given its current Colonial Revival detailing. The present appearance of the building is described below.

The southwest elevation, facing Main Street, is five bays long; the four southern bays correspond with the original L-shaped building at 152-154 Main Street, while the northern end bay corresponds with the former one-story brick building at 156 Main Street. The first story consists of two entry doors at the two end bays of the facade separated by three, large segmental-arched windows. The entry doors are identical and feature single doors with 12-lights over a single wood panel and jalousie transoms. The doors are surrounded by an engaged pedimented of wood. This engaged pediment has fluted pilasters supporting a plain frieze board. A bracket for supporting a flag pole occupies the center of the tympanum. Immediately next to the northwestern end door is a single plateglass window raised above a stucco panel.

The three segmental-arched windows located between the end bays have 15 fixed lights with beaded casings and are raised upon concrete covered panels. A segmental-arched header lintel tops the opening, while a 'granite sill is below. The segmental arched window towards the northwest has altered brickwork around it; this was the location of the show window, added to the original building on the site between 1897 and 1903. This show window was removed and filled in below the present window.

³ The description of this 1897-1903 remodelling is based upon an historic view of the intersection of Main and Francis Streets included in a collection of historic postcards of Annapolis located at Tracer's' offices. Although no date is given on the postcard, it appears to be from the late 19th century. Indeed, the Sanborn maps indicate that the two wings, used for separate purposes until 1897, were merged and appear in 1903 as a single space.

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The second story consists of five bays of windows; again organized so that the four bays of windows towards the south correspond with 152-154 Main Street, and the single bay towards the north corresponds with 156 Main Street. The four windows in the original L-shaped building have 8/8 sash with single-beaded casing and two-panelled wood shutters, while the fifth window has 6/6 sash with single-beaded casing and identical shutters. These windows all have brick sills and header brick lintels. Although most of the window openings date from the post 1954 remodelling, the four windows of the original L-shaped building are located in their original openings.⁴

The steeply pitched mansard roof, covered with slate tiles, similarly features five windows along this elevation. Here the dormers are set into the mansard roof and have 6/6 windows.

The Francis Street elevation is a long surface which consists of a post-1954 brick infill wall made to the two wings of 152-154 Main Street, and the two-bay northern-most section which corresponds with the building at 156 Main Street. The infill wall which projects off of and beyond the original building is set back from the corner approximately twelve feet and stretches along Francis Street to where it abuts the side wall of the building at 156 Main Street (the walls are flush and well fused together). Because of the change in grade here, the first story is more of a raised basement level and the second story is a low, second story level.

The infill wall is laid with six-course American bond brick; the two-bay older section is laid in a random coursing. The infill wall features two windows in the raised basement level and two 6/6 frosted glass windows with brick sills in the second story. The raised basement windows are set within rectangular openings with metal bars. The two-bay older section features two windows on both the first and second stories. The first story windows are boarded up, but still retain their brick lintels, while the second story has the original 6/6 windows with beaded casing and jack-arched brick lintels intact. The false mansard has four windows built directly into the straight wall surface. They are all 6/6 with beaded casing.

⁴ This is based upon the ca. 1897-1903 historic view of the building as shown on the postcard.

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The southeast end wall facing the waterfront consists of the original end wall to 152-154 Main Street, and a narrow one-bay section set back from it which is part of the post-1954 infill building. This bay has a single wood door reached by a two-step, brick stair. The original section, remodelled, has two bays. The first story has a single, segmental-arched 8/8 window identical to those found along the Main Street elevation and a former single door opening converted into a cash machine. Around the turn of the century, this wall had a large show window across the first story. The second story has large, rectangular openings with 16-light fixed windows with brick sills. Above the second story is a bracketed wood cornice, undoubtedly a survivor from the 1897-1903 remodelling. Pairs of brackets are separated by modillions, which together support the molded cornice with applied decorative trimwork. The false mansard above has two 6/6 windows recessed into the straight wall of the roof.

The interior of the building, on the first floor, contains bank fixtures. Renovated in the 1950s, the interior contains no historic detailing. The second floor was converted into office space in the 1970s and contains no historic detailing.