

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
ANNAPOLIS SURVEY
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. AA-556

Section 8 Page 1

152-156 Main Street

name of property

Anne Arundel County, MD

county and state

The building at 152-156 Main Street was originally constructed as two separate buildings which individually underwent a series of alterations and were later merged, in the mid-20th century, into a single building. One of the two original buildings was built ca. 1840; the other was on the site by 1877. The two were combined in 1954 and redesigned with Colonial Revival detailing. Although significantly altered and primarily a product of the mid-20th century, the building provides an understanding of the physical development of the triangular lot of land formed by the convergence of Francis Street and Main Street, and therefore, contributes to the Annapolis Historic District.

The land on which 152-156 Main Street is located originally occupied a portion of the triangular lot of ground that is designated Lot 72 on the Stoddert Map of 1718. In 1721 the lot was sold to Thomas Bordley and included a "house built by Benjamin Fordham."⁵ Upon Thomas Bordley's death in 1726, the land was inherited by his son, Stephen, who, in 1753 sold the lot to James Maccubbin. In 1753 and 1758, James Maccubbin sold a portion of lot 72 (80 feet at north of lot 72) to James Dick, but held onto the remaining portion. In 1776, James Maccubbin died intestate, leaving no direct heirs to his property. In 1788, Maccubbin's nephew, James Maccubbin Lingan gained ownership of the land. Following his inheritance that same year, Lingan advertised the property with "two brick dwellings and a small frame house" for sale. In 1790, Absalom Ridgely purchased the property from Lingan for L100.

Between 1790 and 1798 Absalom Ridgely advertised for sale "two unimproved lots on Church Street", while he is charged in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax with a two-story brick dwelling on Church Street and a two-story brick store on Church Street; based upon this information it cannot be determined whether the buildings from 152-166 Main Street stood on the site at that time. In 1832, Ridgely sold the portion of land which corresponds with 152-160 Main Street to Dennis Claude, Jr. for \$1800. Two years later, in 1834 Dennis Claude, Jr. bought Coe's portion of the lot for \$1300, thereby amassing that portion of lot 72 which today corresponds with 152-168 Main Street. At that time, it seems that no buildings were located on the property.

Based upon the on-site survey, the building at 152-156 Main Street

⁵ Lot Histories, Historic Annapolis.

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was erected on the site ca. 1840 and can be seen on the 1858 Sachse Birds Eye View of Annapolis. It is first mentioned in deed transactions in 1858 following the death of its owner, Dennis Claude, in 1856. According to the records, Dennis Claude owned "150 acres and a brick house near clock⁶ and five brick stores and dwellings opposite City Hall and frame dwelling near Ball Room."⁷ The property at 158-164 Main Street was inherited by his children, who proceeded to divide the land holdings amongst themselves. Phoebe Claude gained ownership of the house at 168 Main Street; Susan inherited the three houses at 158-166 Main Street; and Marion became owner of 152-156 Main Street. Marion Claude and her husband Charles F. Howes owned the property until 1872, when they conveyed it to Louis H. Rehn. The deed of conveyance described the property, indicating that it contained a "two-story brick house now used as a store."⁸ Rehn, born in Germany in 1836, operated the building as a dry goods and clothing store.

According to the Sanborn Maps, in the years between 1885 and the mid-1890s, the building at 152-154 Main Street was a general store and the one-story building at 156 Main Street was a confectioners. Around 1895, according to historic photos and by 1897, according to Sanborn maps, 152-154 Main Street became a meat market. A ca. 1895 photo of the building from Mame Warren's The Trains Done Been and Gone, shows it with its name, the Baltimore Meat Market, painted across the end wall facing the harbor. According to the census records for 1900, the building at 156 Main Street was leased by Perry Kashner, who operated a lunch room.

In 1903 the two buildings are shown as a restaurant and a lunchroom. In 1908, 156 Main Street is still shown as a lunchroom, while 152-154 Main Street was vacant and undergoing remodelling. After the remodelling, 152-154 Main Street became a dry goods store and appears in historic photos with show windows on the Main Street

⁶ The five brick stores and dwellings across from City Hall may well refer to the five buildings located at 152-166 Main Street. City Hall, located at 211 Main Street, is not directly across the street, but across the street and up several buildings from the corner of Conduit Street.

⁷ Equity Record NHG 6 Folio 489 (April Term 1858).

⁸ Liber SH 7 Folio 59

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elevation and the end wall facing the harbor.⁹

Following the death of Louis Rehn in 1914, the property was devised to his daughter, Emma Wells.¹⁰ The smaller 156 Main Street was in 1913 a tailor shop. Between 1913 and 1921, 156 Main Street was enlarged to become a two-story structure, shown on the 1921 Sanborn maps as a barber shop. In 1928, according to city directories, 152-154 Main Street was Aaron Goodman's¹¹ clothing store and 156 Main Street was W.R. Shield's barber shop. When Emma Wells died in 1937, the property was devised to her three children, who after 9 years conveyed it to the J. Labovitz Department Store, Inc.

In 1949 both buildings were occupied by the Mirror Grill, and in 1954 they once again had different occupants. The smaller 156 Main Street was the Walter Brewer, Father and Son Clothing Shop, while 152-154 Main Street had a number of occupants, including the Enterprise Federal Savings and Loan Association, the Washington Post, the Baltimore Life Insurance Company and the Washington National Insurance Company. As the owners of the building, the Enterprise Federal Savings and Loan Association eventually occupied the entire building. The bank, later known as the Annapolis Federal Savings Bank, remained the sole occupant for approximately 40 years. The building was conveyed to Crestar Bank of Maryland in 1994. Crestar Bank currently occupies the building located at 152-156 Main Street, leasing the upper floor as office space.

⁹ Mame Warren, The Trains Done Been and Gone, p. 15.

¹⁰Liber GW 119 Folio 393

¹¹ Aaron Goodman, clothier, was the builder of the Goodman building located at 100 Main Street, built between 1908 and 1913. Ironically, he did not locate his own clothing store in his building.

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Historic Period Theme: Architecture, Landscape Architecture &
Community Planning

Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Agricultural-Industrial
Transition, 1815-1870

Industrial - Urban
Dominance, 1870-1930

Modern Period, 1930-
present

Resource Type(s): Standing Structure