

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED AUG 2 1977  
DATE ENTERED DEC 13 1977

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC \*\*  
Villa Anneslie  
AND/OR COMMON  
Anneslie

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
529 Dunkirk Road  
CITY, TOWN  
Towson  
STATE  
Maryland  
VICINITY OF  
Third  
COUNTY  
Baltimore  
CODE  
24  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Third  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CODE  
005

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Roger Chylinski-Polubinski  
STREET & NUMBER  
529 Dinkirk Road  
CITY, TOWN  
Towson  
STATE  
Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Baltimore County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Towson  
STATE  
Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Villa Anneslie, 529 Dunkirk Road, Towson, Maryland, was built c. 1855 by Frederick Harrison as a summer home. Mr. Harrison, a civil engineer, named his estate for his daughter Anne. Anneslie, one of a line of estates on York Road from Towson to Waverly, was built on a 100-acre tract bounded by York Road on the west, Sherwood Road (east), Register Avenue (north) and on the south by Windwood Road. As was typical of adjoining estates, the house was built far from York Road and was surrounded by groves of trees, fields and wooded areas. It remained so until 1922 when the tract was purchased by Charles H. Steffey, a realtor, who developed it into a remote, middle class suburb of Baltimore. The lots were narrow, most being only 25 feet wide and 125 feet deep, and the modern houses required several. The villa and a surviving outbuilding to the rear, said to have been a slave cabin on the Govans estate, are located on ten lots.

Anneslie, built of brick covered with clapboard, is an Italianate, two-story villa. It was designed by John Rudolph Niernsee of Niernsee & Neilson, a Baltimore architectural firm. Though the house is not exceptionally elaborate, the architect closely followed A. J. Downing's designs. Niernsee's asymmetrical design with a central tower over the entrance and his floor plan can be readily found in Downing's Books.

Anneslie's main elevation faces west toward York Road. Its three-story tower forms part of a one-story porch which extends across the three bays to the north. To the south of the tower, the parlor (music room) and bedroom above project slightly and have a large two-story, rectangular bay window. A servants' wing forms the northern elevation along Dunkirk Road. On its first floor were the kitchen, laundry, pantry, store rooms and a bathroom. A servants' stair leads to three small bedrooms above. The cast iron wood stove has been moved to the stone outbuilding, now a guest house, and the servants' wing has been converted into an apartment.

The main part of Anneslie is maintained as a residence. A wide entrance hall extends the length of the central part of the house and, at each end, has double doors with sidelights. Flanking the hall are the dining room on the north and, on the south, parlor and drawing rooms which open onto a porch. The stair hall, located at the rear of the entrance hall, extends along the side of the dining room so that only the base of the stair is visible from the entrance. On the second floor are five bedrooms and a bath with fixtures dating from the Civil

(see Continuation Sheet No. 1)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 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 c. 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Rudolph Niernsee

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Villa Anneslie is one of the nineteenth century country houses which have survived the commercial and residential development along York Road from Baltimore to Towson. At one time it was part of a continuous line of estates along that road from Waverly to Towson. Though now surrounded by suburbia, this house is a fine, well-proportioned example of an Italianate villa. Anneslie's architect knew and closely followed A. J. Downing's pattern books for his romantic design. This house is not as rich in ornament as some other similar villas, but it remains in good condition and has not been significantly altered.

Anneslie was designed by John Rudolph Niernsee, a prominent Baltimore architect and member of the firm Niernsee and Neilson. Niernsee, a Viennese, achieved a reputation as an engineer while a draftsman for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. In 1854, he was asked to comment on structural problems in the new South Carolina Capitol and was later placed in charge of the project. He and E. G. Lind represented Baltimore when the American Institute of Architects was formed in 1857. His firm designed many of Baltimore's townhouses, including the Thomas-Jencks-Gladding House, Miller House and Asbury House. They also designed Camden Station, Alexandroffsky (Ross Winans' house in west Baltimore) and Stoneleigh (demolished), Anneslie's neighboring estate. Their designs, including Anneslie, show John Niernsee as an accomplished romantic architect.

The original owner of the Anneslie estate was also a prominent Baltimorean. Born in Canaan, Connecticut in 1804, Frederick Harrison was a gentleman farmer. He went to West Point but resigned in 1826 for health reasons. After receiving an appointment as a government engineer, he became assistant to Dr. William Howard in Baltimore. Working with Howard, he chose and surveyed a route for a canal between Baltimore and Washington, surveyed the Charleston and Augusta Railroad, the Northern Central Railroad as far as Cockeysville and the Michigan and Illinois Canal (1829-30). In addition, he did reconnaissance of the Ohio River for a B&O Railroad route (1827) and laid out

(see Continuation Sheet No. 2)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Map of Anneslie, Situated in Baltimore County, Maryland."  
Dec. 6, 1916. In the records of the Baltimore County  
Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County.  
Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881.

(see Continuation Sheet No. 2)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3/4 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 | 361710 | 4359530  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B    |    |     
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C    |    |   

D    |    |   

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George J. Andreve, Architectural Historian

1/25/77

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis,

STATE

Maryland 21401

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*John N. Pearce*  
SHPO

7/26/77

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST: *Charles...*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/13/77  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
DATE 12-9-77

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7 DESCRIPTION

War period. In the stair hall to the tower room is the original expansion tank for the hot water heating system.

The detailing and decoration of Anneslie is good but not extensive. On the exterior, most of the architraves, including circular headed windows, are plain. However, the circular, third-story tower window as well as the entrance are flanked by pilasters and have prominent keystones. Most of the gables have a small, circular window. There are also Tuscan pilasters in the entrance hall that visually separate it from the rear portion so as to form a separate stair hall. None of the gas light fixtures remain, but there are original marble mantels throughout Anneslie. Most have rectangular openings and some still have large, elaborate mirrors above. The mantel in the dining room is black.

To the rear of Anneslie is a small uncoursed rubble stone building now used as a guest house. The stone walls are original, but the roof with interior exposed beams is not.

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

lines for the Baltimore and Susquehanna (later Penn-Central) Railroad through Jones Falls. Harrison again resigned because of ill health and traveled in the West Indies and Europe with his wife, daughter of the wealthy Baltimore merchant James Wilson. After building Anneslie, the Harrisons spent their winters in Nassau and Florida. During the Civil War, they lived in Ireland and England. Their daughter Anne married Lennox Birckhead, and the estate remained in that family until recently purchased by the present owner. It was Mr. Birckhead's son Lennox by his second marriage who sold all but three acres of the estate to a realtor in 1922 for the Anneslie subdivision.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- "Stoneleigh and Anneslie, Two Famous Old Homesteads of Pre-Civil War Period." Jeffersonian, Jan. 5, 1934.
- "Street Signs: Anneslie." Sunday Sun, March 21, 1954.