

PH 0038202

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Baltimore
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	MAR 17 1975

### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
Auburn House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Osler Drive between Towsontown Boulevard and Stevenson Lane

CITY OR TOWN:  
Towson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Second

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
<u>Maryland</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Baltimore</u>	<u>24</u>

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<u>Open to</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>Faculty Club</u>	<u>members of</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<u>the staff and leaders of the</u>	<u>community.</u>

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Towson State College

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8000 York Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Baltimore

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Baltimore County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Allegany Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Baltimore

STATE:  
Maryland

CODE:  
24

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

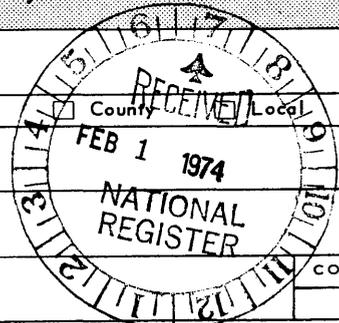
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Baltimore

ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 17 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Auburn House is located on the grounds of the Towson State College campus on Osler Drive between Towsontown Boulevard and Stevenson Lane. The structure was part of the Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital property recently acquired by the school.

The house is a rectangular three-story stone structure faced with stucco. The low-pitched slag roof, with three foot overhanging eaves, concealed gutters, and skylights into the third floor bedroom, slopes from all sides to a center point capped by a trap door.

The first floor center hall measures 45' x 13' and features acanthus patterned cornices. The double front doors are surrounded by leaded glass panels above and on each side. Covered porches (10' x 15') shelter each entrance and are constructed of heavy millwork wooden rails and balusters.

Two rooms measuring 20' x 20' open from the side of the hall. These rooms contain delicately formed rose pattern cornices and fireplaces of black Italian marble mantel and facings. A low ornamental iron grill guard is installed on the outside of the front window. These rooms open to a 12' wide porch which extends the full depth of the east side of the house. This porch is similar to the ones described above and are constructed of similar millwork.

The library is the rear also contains a fireplace with black Italian marble mantel and facings. All walls are lined with bookshelves to the level of the top of the window.

The front rooms and the library are connected by a 8' opening with sliding double doors recessed in the walls.

The dining room, measuring 20' x 22', opens from the center hall in the front and contains a fireplace similar to the one previously described with the addition of fluted marble columns in front of the facings. The west window of the rooms opens to the 6' x 6' porch. Eight foot closed cupboards with paneled arched-top double doors are set into the wall on each side of the front windows. The other walls have plaster paneling to conform with the cupboards and doors. Brass hardware adorn the cupboards.

The stairway to the upper floors has a graceful, curved mahogany baluster and handrail supported by simple cylindrical tapered balusters.

The second floor plan is essentially the same as the first floor. A center hall, the depth of the house and the same width as the first floor, also provides access to the four bedrooms. Later renovations modified the center hall by converting the ends into clothes closets and bathrooms. All of the second floor bedrooms contain fireplaces. The original marble mantels and facings have been replaced by carved wood. Electrified sconces over the mantels and in the side walls remain and are functional. All of the second floor windows are the same size and position and directly above those on the first floor. The windows from the east side bedrooms open on-

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>local history</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Auburn is an important example of the Italianate-Federal style, "sub-species" of the broader term Greek Revival. The subtle architectural effects of Auburn created through a careful handling of proportion as opposed to elaborate ornamentation illustrates a dominant characteristic of the Greek Revival.

The historical associations of Auburn begin with Rebecca Dorsey Ridgely the wife of Charles Ridgely, builder of Hampton. She lived at Auburn from 1791 to 1812. Her association with the property adds currency to the theory that Auburn was a copy of Hampton on a five-eighths scale.

Three decades later Henry Cristie Turnbull, the son of William Turnbull a Scottish immigrant and founder of the prominent Baltimore County family, acquired Auburn. During his occupancy the whimsical barn was constructed and formal gardens were laid out. In 1849 a severe fire destroyed most of the Ridgely house. Turnbull erected the present structure, on the earlier foundations incorporating some of the original walls and salvage woodwork. Auburn became a "mecca" for Turnbull family reunions.

During the Civil War Turnbull's son Lawrence Turnbull and his younger brothers published a literary magazine called The Acorn at Auburn. The ambitious publication appeared monthly from May 1861 through March 1863. One of his sisters Ellie M. Turnbull faithfully saved each issue, now in the Maryland Historical Society. Lawrence Turnbull, after receiving a bachelors degree at Princeton (his father's alma mater) and a legal education from Severn Teackle Wallis, engaged in an active literary career. As the publisher of The New Eclectic he gained wide acclaim as well as the friendships of prominent figures like Sydney Lanier. (Turnbull's summer home La Paix played a part in the career of another literary figure, F. Scott Fitzgerald.)

John Symington a subsequent owner modernized Auburn and added the kitchen wing to accommodate his style of life. The son of a Confederate officer and an all American lacrosse player, Symington became an officer of Barlett Hayward Company which manufactured munitions and of Locke Insulation Company before his retirement in 1924. Auburn his Baltimore County house, served as an appropriate setting for this prominent member of the Elkridge Fox

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

The Acorn. 1861-1863. Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Maryland.  
Published at Auburn by Lawrence Turnbull and his brothers.

Baltimore County Land and Probate Records. Baltimore County Courthouse,  
Towson, Maryland.

Edmonds, Anne C. "Land Holdings of the Ridgelys of Hampton 12. 1726-  
1843." Thesis. 1959. The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.  
(see continuation sheet #2)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

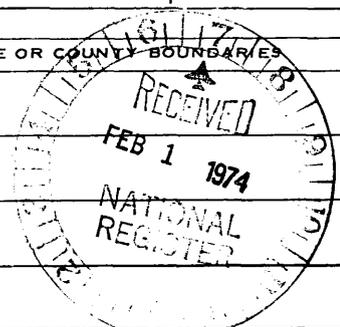
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		39 23 10	76 36 48	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

12/361031  
4360661  
C

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: two acres

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: John Miller, Curator

ORGANIZATION: Hampton Mansion DATE: May 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Towson 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 Orlando Ridout IV  
Orlando Ridout, IV

Title State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

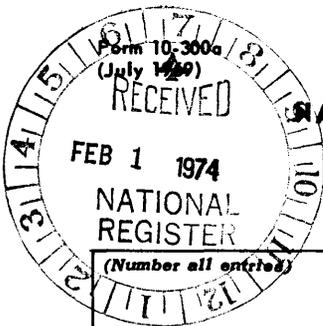
A. P. Mortenson  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/17/75

ATTEST:

Charles H. ...  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3-14-75



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
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Auburn House

No. 7. Description Continued.

to the flat roof over the side porch. This second floor porch is surrounded by a milled rail and balusters matching the porch below.

The third floor plan is basically the same as the second floor including the alterations. The rooms are the same size as the rooms below. The fireplaces in these rooms are simple and without mantels. All ceilings on the third floor (8' in the center sloping to 5' at the outside walls) are lower. Light wells with glass tops are installed in the ceiling of each bedroom. Each can be opened and are installed with roller blinds or shades which can be operated from below. A trapdoor leading into an unfloored, unfinished attic is in the center hall.

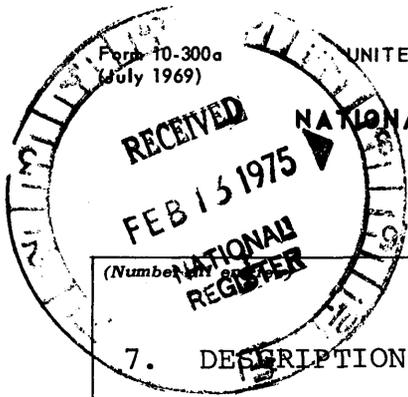
Access to the cellar is via a stairway below the first floor stairs. The walls below the center hall are supporting walls about 16" thick that extend to the attic floor and are generally considered to be part of the house surviving the fire of 1849. The southeast corner of the cellar contains a room the same size as the living room, considered to be the original kitchen of Auburn. In its west wall is a large fireplace with a sturdy swinging crane and a heavy hook set into its sides. Smaller rooms, probably utilized as a buttery, milk pantry and cook's pantry open from this room.

Water appears originally to have been brought into the house by piping from a spring one hundred yards away, under force from a hydraulic ram. At an unknown point in time, a very large cylindrical iron water tank was set up in the cellar which forced water to the upper floors through an air pressure system. The tank itself is something of a mystery. It is 5' in diameter and 20' long, made of 1/4" thick boiler plate held together with hand-driven rivets. It must have been constructed in the cellar since it is much too large to have been brought in through any exterior opening.

This provides a description of the house as restored and as it stood until John Fife Symington purchased it. He modified the structure by adding a large two-story kitchen wing. This addition contains a large butler's pantry, a cold pantry and back stairs leading to two servants rooms, a bath and a housekeeping closet on the second floor. Its cellar has a large laundry room and a general storage room with an opening to the outside.

Standing majestically before the front doors of Auburn are the two largest English elms in Maryland (ref., Big Tree Champions of Maryland, 1965. Fred W. Buly, State Forester, 1906-1942, pub. State Department of Forests and Parks). The trees are called "The Bride and the Groom" and were measured each spring by the State Forestry Department. The measure approximately 20' in girth and stand over 125' tall. Many other very large trees enhance the grounds of the estate.

(see continuation sheet #2)



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

(Continuation Sheet) No. 3

STATE	Maryland	
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ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		MAR 17 1975

(Number)

Auburn House

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

Auburn is a three story stuccoed and scored stone house with a two story (1920's) addition on the west wall. The main block has a low pitched hip roof with a pair of brick chimneys projecting from the south and north facades. The roof on the addition is flat with a brick chimney located at the western end similar in form to those on the main block.

The south facade is three bays wide with a door located in the center first floor bay. The sash windows are three lights wide and a varying number of lights long. Those on the first floor extend to floor level. Those on the second floor are six over nine, and those on the third, the size of the upper sash of the second. Decorative grills remain in some of the second and third floor windows. Shutters originally existed on all the windows.

The central door on the south facade is sheltered by a porch supported by square piers with a recessed rectangular panel on each face. Pilasters of an identical design support the porch at the south wall of the house. Raised wooden urns were originally attached to the base of the pilasters. A transom exists above the double door which is flanked by side lights which extend above the door to the top of the transom.

A balustrade exists on top of the porch creating a balcony on the second floor. The urns that support the balustrade duplicate those on the pilasters below. A paired opening provided access. This second floor porch was previously glassed in.

The porch, as the entire house and wing, has a plain box cornice.

The east facade follows the pattern of window openings set on the south. A porch extends across the first floor from the south window to the north window. It is supported by piers and pilasters identical to those on the south porch. The second floor balcony has an iron railing (probably a latter addition). An enclosed space projects on to the balcony at the central and northern bay.

The north facade follows the pattern of window openings of the south with the exception that no window exists on the third floor. The north facade illustrates the treatment of the central second floor window. It consists of a pair of four and six sash windows set in one opening (the size of the flanking windows). The double door treated similarly to the windows above here exists in

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	Maryland	
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		MAR 17 1975

(Number all entries)

Auburn House

No. 7. Description continued.

To the east of the house is the poorly tended remains of a beautiful formal Italian garden and yew walk on two levels. A native field spring house completes the description of the property.

No. 8. Significance continued.

#2

Hunting Club, the Maryland Club and the Baltimore Country Club. In 1944 Symington sold the property to Sheppard-Pratt Hospital which is visible from Auburn's north lawn. The hospital used it as housing for one of its more prominent physicians, Harry Murdock.

In 1971 the house became the property of Towson State College whose administration plans to rehabilitate and restore the building for a faculty club - a function to which its grandly proportioned rooms are well suited.

No. 9. Major Bibliographical References continued.

"Hampton." Maryland Historical Magazine. Volume 43. (1948), 96-107.

Peterson, Charles E. "Notes on Hampton Mansion." U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Library, Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland.

The Sun (Baltimore), February 23, 1934 and November 6, 1949.



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

(Continuation Sheet) No. 4

STATE	Maryland	
COUNTY	Baltimore	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		MAR 17 1975

(Number all entries)

Auburn House

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

an unadorned opening. The lattice work porch is most probably a later addition.

The visible sections of the west facade indicate it followed the pattern set on the other three facades. In the 1920's a two story wing was added beginning at the northern edge of the northern bay and extending across the southern bay but not extending to the corner. This flat roofed three bay long two bay wide service wing extends just above the top window line on the main block. Careful steps were taken to duplicate the surface treatment, cornice, shutters and trim of the central block. The windows on the wing, on a smaller scale than the main block, are smaller in size than those on the main house.

Auburn is currently vacant. Towson State College has scaled the structure to prevent further vandalism. The College intends to restore the house as a faculty club. Although vandalism has caused serious damage, enough original material exists for an accurate restoration.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Auburn derives its architectural significance as an example of a surviving Greek Revival building in Maryland of which few other examples survive. Auburn demonstrates that the Greek Revival style depended on proportion rather than ornament. The architectural success of Auburn derives from its careful proportions in mass, roof pitch and scaling of window openings. Even the wall treatment is a subdued stucco with a faint scoring. The progressively smaller window openings from the ground to the cornice is usually associated with Italianate structures.

Greek Revival is used here in the broad definition used by Talbot Humlin in Greek Revival Architecture in America (New York: 1944).

