

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000807

Date Listed: 7/20/89

Choate House
Property Name

Baltimore
County

MD
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

7/20/89
Date of Action

===== Amended Items in Nomination: =====

The nomination form does not provide an acreage figure for the nominated area (using instead the square footage). Ron Andrews with the MD SHPO has verified that the acreage is less than one. The form is now officially amended to add the acreage figure.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUN 05 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Choate House
other names/site number BA-15

2. Location

street & number 9600 Liberty Road not for publication
city, town Randallstown vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Baltimore code 005 zip code 21133

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
[Signature] Signature of certifying official 5-26-89 Date
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Patrick W. Andrews 7/20/89
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/hotel

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls Granite

Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Choate House is an 1810 2-1/2 story stone building topped by a gable roof with porch and dormers added in the 1880s while the interior has a blend of influences from the first quarter of the 19th century to the Craftsman style of about 1920. The uncoursed rubble granite stone walls are augmented by jack arches over all openings on the street facade. As viewed today, the exterior ornamentation is Italianate in style and was probably applied in the 1880s. These changes include a full length porch, broken into four bays, with chamfered posts topped by scroll sawn brackets and joined post-to-post by open fretwork brackets. All window sash viewed from the street are 2/2 lights. Wide overhanging eaves were added to the front and rear, with a bracketed cornice topping the principle facade. Wide overhanging eaves were added to the front and rear, with a bracketed cornice topping the principle facade. Three dormers break the roof in front and two in the rear. The central facade dormer is double-arched and flanked by single-arched dormers. Two corresponding dormers project on the rear. The dormers are topped by a turned finial. The north facade presently exhibits an enclosed shed roofed porch and a flat roofed stone appendage which once served as a garage. On the interior, the main floor has four rooms with a closed stair. The second floor plan is similar, with the exception of the division of one room for a bath. The attic floor is presently divided into three rooms and a broad hall, most of which has been stripped of plaster. No early period trim survives on the first floor. This floor has Craftsman period decorative detailing including a stone mantel, window box, and flanking columns in a major doorway. The second floor is a mixture of 1880s detailing and a few original elements, such as window trim and the survival of a simple Federal period mantel with a shelf supported by ogee and cove molding. The majority of doors on the second floor that survive from the early period are six-panel, having raised field panels.

See continuation sheet for
GENERAL DESCRIPTION

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Section number 7 Page 1GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Constructed of local granite in uncoursed rubble, Choate House is a detached, single family dwelling which is rectangular in plan. The 2-1/2 story structure is four bays wide with a gable roof broken by five arched dormers decorated in the Italianate style, and two interior end brick chimneys. To the west, an early 20th century landscape feature survives in the form of a stone retaining wall, which projects from the house at a 90 degree angle for approximately thirty feet. Close to the east elevation is a non-contributing, dilapidated, shed-roofed well house. Also on the east is the present driveway leading to the rear of the house.

The main or south elevation of Choate House presents a late 19th century appearance due to a large number of elements in the Italianate style. Primary among these is the front porch that stretches the length of the facade. Divided into four equal bays each of which frames a window of the first floor plus the entry door, which is second from the left. Supported by five chamfered posts topped by scroll sawn brackets, the hipped porch roof is covered with standing seam metal. A heavy bracketed cornice augments the scroll sawn brackets which form arches between the posts. This elevation also has a scroll sawn bracketed cornice at the eave line. A central double-arched dormer is embellished by a finial topping a keystone-like block, and front brackets as springblocks for the arches, and scalloped shingles on the sides. This dormer is flanked by single-arched dormers of the same design with two corresponding dormers to the rear. The completion of this construction phase to the Choate House was the lowering to the floor level all first floor windows facing Liberty Road. Two-over-two sashes were then installed in these openings and all other existing windows, with the exception of two windows to the rear.

Around the east elevation are a pair of French doors, most likely installed in the early 20th century. Also on this elevation is a large window at ground level which structural evidence suggests was the original cellar entrance.

The northern or rear facade presents all periods in which the house has stood. From the initial construction period survive two eight-light upper sashes in the upper right of this wall. At the roof level are two arched dormers from the late 19th century restyling of the main facade. A porch most likely dating from the early 20th century covers two thirds of the first floor. Enclosed shortly after construction, an appendage that shelters a bath was added circa 1950.

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The west elevation is broken by five windows, two on the first, one on the second, and two in the gable.

Choate House has a four room plan with an enclosed stair to the rear dividing the kitchen and dining room. The plan of the first floor is primarily the result of an early twentieth century renovation. The second floor plan is similar with the exception of the division of one room for a bath. The attic level is currently divided into three chambers and a broad hall.

All trim on the first floor dates from the Craftsman style remodeling of about 1920. Stretching across the front are two parlors of unequal size. The fireplace in the southwest parlor has a slate marbled mantel dating from the 1880s with engaged pilasters topped by brackets supporting the shelf. Immediately to the left is a built-in oak bench of about 1920. The principal trim is flat and rises from plinth blocks to a header topped by an ogee trim. The opening leading to the southeast parlor has flanking piers on a paneled base. This entry frames the mantel of large limestone blocks at the other end of this parlor. To either side of the mantel are the French doors added at the same time as other early 20th century improvements. From the larger parlor, entry is gained to the dining room from which the enclosed stair rises to the second floor. The second floor has a blend of late and early 19th century elements. The simple four room plan survives along with the majority of doors from the construction period. These doors are composed of six raised fielded panels each. One bedroom has an original simple Federal period mantel of wood with a shelf supported by ogee and cove molding. In another bedroom is a black ebonized Anglo-Japanese mantel with a mirror-over-mantel topped by a spindled frieze dating from the first renovation. The trim is generally Federal architrave in type. The stair balustrade on this floor dates from the late nineteenth century renovation. The house remains intact basically to the period it was occupied by the Choate family.

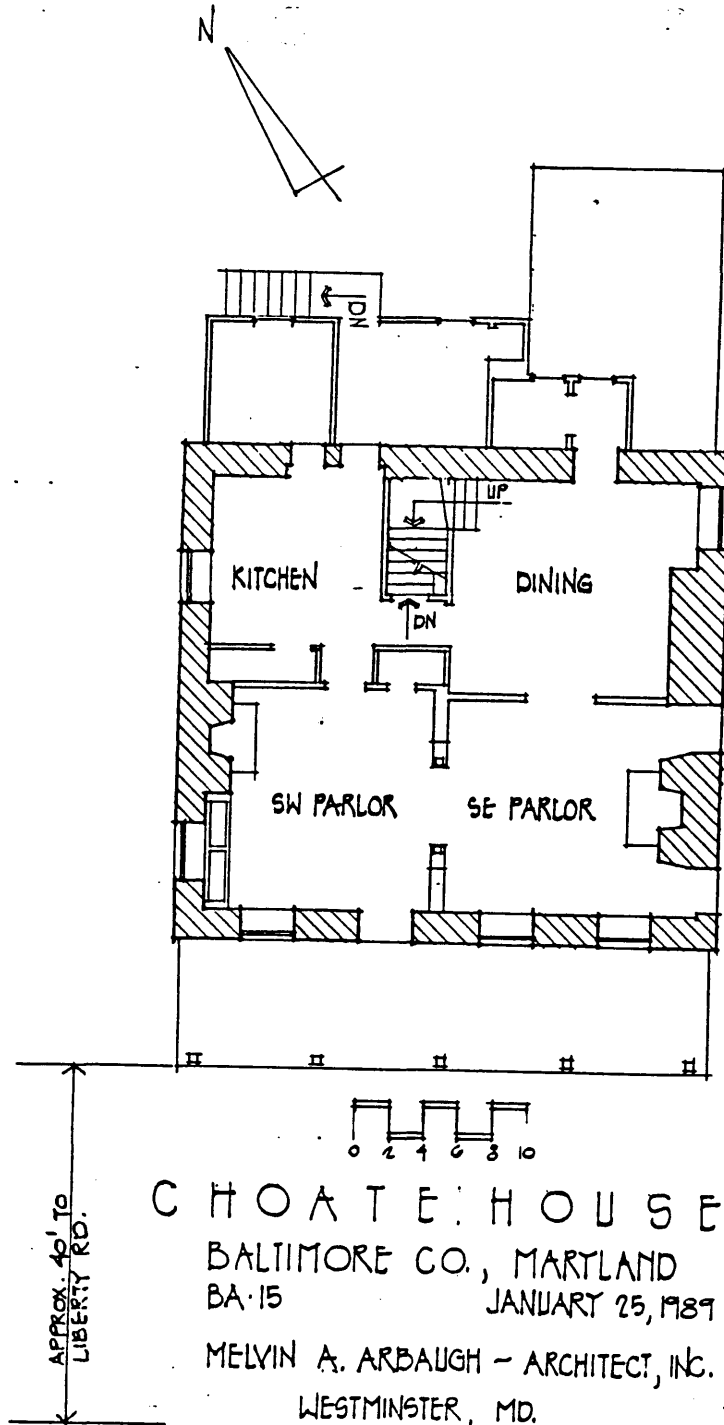
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8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

c. 1810
c. 1880s
c. 1920

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Choate House is an important example of rural nineteenth and early twentieth century domestic architecture of southwestern Baltimore County. Throughout the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth century, this area and most of Baltimore County remained rural expanses of farm land with development limited primarily to the suburban regions around Catonsville and Towson, and to town and cross road areas like Reisterstown and Hereford. Scattered along the roadways were farm houses, the occasional business establishment, and places like Choate House which began as a tavern, but by the middle of the nineteenth century became a single dwelling. A number of these rural dwellings like Choate House, reflect the development of the county in their own history with waves of remodeling responding to periods of prosperity. Choate House is one of the few examples remaining in this section of Baltimore County. It retains a high percentage of its original character (primarily configuration, decorative detailing, materials, and location) which conveys information on the architecture of the period. The Italianate renovations of the circa 1880s, particularly to the exterior decorative detailing, are some of the finest examples of that influence in the area. The Craftsman interior work added in the 1920s reflects the last period of major change in the region before the mass building that began in the mid twentieth century and ended the rural character of southwest Baltimore County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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- Baltimore American and Commercial Daily Advertiser, 1814
- Hollifield, William, Difficulties Made Easy (Cockeysville, MD, 1977)
- Phillips, Jesse Choate, Choate Family of Baltimore County, Maryland, (Harrisburg PA, 1979)
- Phillips, Jesse Choate, "Recollections of Randallstown," History, (Winter 1978-79)
- Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties: Baltimore County, Maryland Historic Trust, Annapolis, MD.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 11,178 square feet
USGS quad Reisterstown, MD

UTM References

A

1	8	3	4	3	7	2	0	4	3	5	9	9	0	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheet No. 10.1

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is essentially the suburban lot upon which the resource stands minus the non-historic storage buildings and open space to the north and west. The resource is bordered on the east and west by mid-twentieth century commercial buildings.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title V. J. Trescott
organization Consultant date 1989
street & number 5711 Oak View Drive telephone 301-795-0557
city or town Sykesville state Maryland zip code 21784

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870 A.D.
Industrial-Urban Dominance 1870-1930 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) or Uses(s): DOMESTIC/hotel
DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

Known Design Source: None

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Section number 8 Page 2HISTORIC SETTING:

Choate House, located on Liberty Road, a major highway since the late 18th century, running from Baltimore to Frederick, was perfectly sited to serve as a tavern, which it did when first constructed. It was operated by Michael Riddelmoser, stood only eleven miles from Baltimore, and opened in 1810. The period following the Revolution and up through the first decades of the 19th century were an era of great expansion for the city of Baltimore. This prosperity spilled over to the surrounding counties. Passing to Henry Trump, the tavern and its surroundings 290-3/4 acres of ground served as a farm under his ownership at a time when the national economy and agricultural prices were high. The Choate family purchased the property in 1850 and retained ownership until 1971. The Choates owned the property during a time when the development of the nearby town of Randallstown was in full speed.

RESOURCE HISTORY:

The property now known as Choate House was developed as a tavern by Michael Riddelmoser. After 1810¹, Riddelmoser sited his tavern on the "Great Road"² running from Baltimore to Frederick. Along this highway ran a large portion of Maryland's economy. In 1814, Riddelmoser advertised in the Baltimore American⁴ the sale of his property.³ The following owner was Henry Trum.⁴ The property remained in the Trump family until sold to Richard Choate in 1850.⁵

Richard Choate (1804-1864) realized the value of his location and became one of the principal⁶ organizers of the Baltimore and Liberty Turnpike Road Company in 1860. During the ownership of his son, Richard Pearse Choate (1845-1919) that Choate House was remodeled to its present exterior appearance. The full-length front porch, bracketed cornice, and dormers in the Italianate style were all elements of the second Choate's updating. In 1910, Choate participated in ceremonies celebrating state ownership of the former turnpike.

1. Baltimore County Deeds, WG 106:154
2. Baltimore City Deeds, WG 117:693
3. Baltimore American and Commercial Daily Advertiser, May 30, 1814
4. Baltimore City Deeds, TK 338:134
5. Baltimore City Deeds, AWB 448:237
6. Phillips, Jesse Choate, Choate Family of Baltimore County, Maryland (Harrisburg, PA, 1979), p. 31
7. Hollifield, William, Difficulties Made Easy (Cockeysville, 1977), p. 31

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With the death of Richard P. Choate in 1919, the property passed to his heirs and remained in the family until 1971.⁸ Subsequent to Choate's death, his heirs undertook a remodeling Craftsman style to the principal rooms of the first floor. Today Choate House sits amid modern development. It is the last visible reminder of 19th century architectural development for a portion of a highway that played a significant role in the history of Maryland.

RESOURCE ANALYSIS:

Choate House, built in a period of agricultural-industrial transition (1815-1870) can be viewed as a typical example of Maryland's development during this time. Constructed of uncoursed granite rubble, this building is representative of a type that was dominant in western Baltimore and southern Carroll counties at the time. The initial construction period was enhanced by the addition of the Italianate elements after the Civil War. Once again the owners felt secure enough to undertake a major project that would update the structure and make it fashionable once again. These additions have stood the test of time and now are viewed as an integral part of the building by the community at large. So much so, in fact, that the early history of the structure is largely forgotten.

Comparison to surrounding structures is a difficult task in that the Choate House today is surrounded for miles in any direction by modern development. Bordered by an apartment complex, school, housing developments, and the site of a proposed shopping center. Choate House stands as the lone reminder of the 19th century and early twentieth century development from the Federal to late Victorian and Craftsman periods.

8. Baltimore County Deeds, WPC 633:410; also, OTG 5275.951

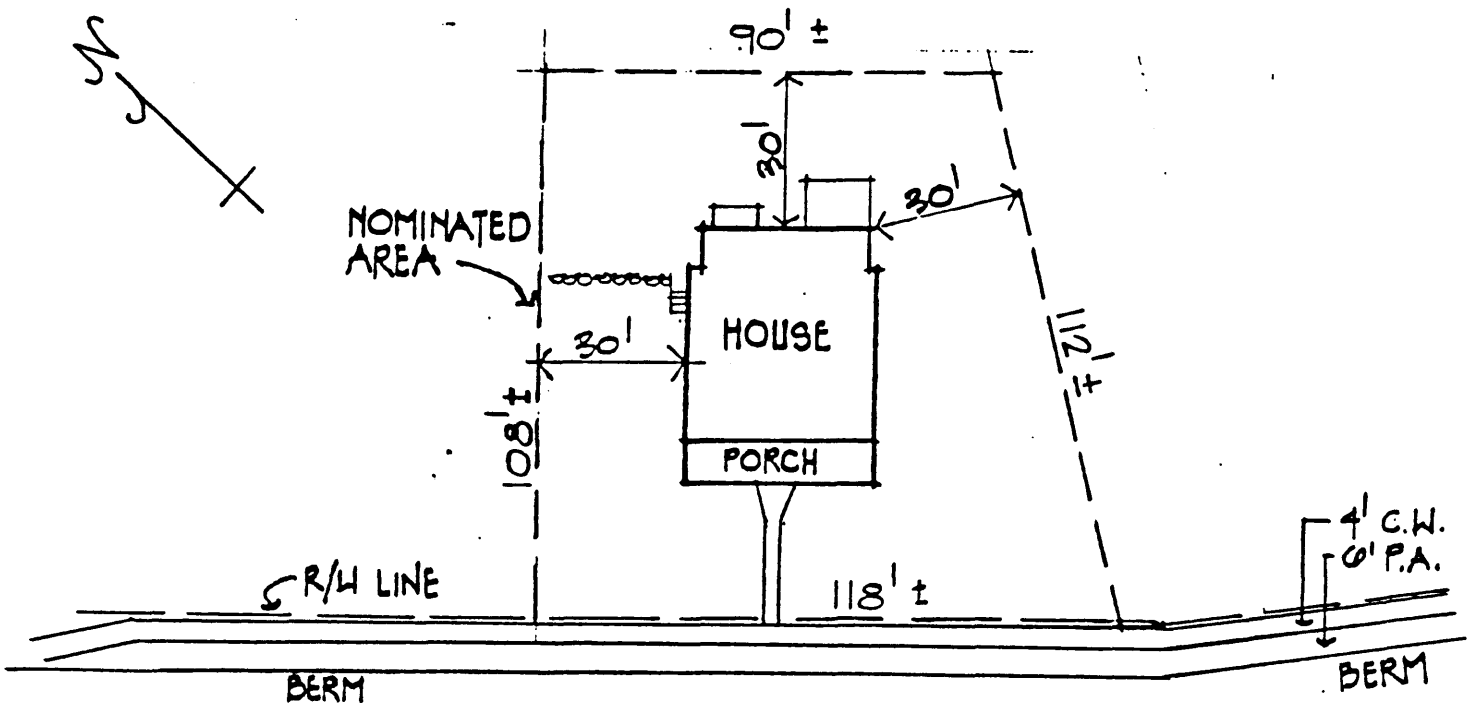
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LIBERTY RD. ~ RT. 26