

Name/Address: Former Engine House, 1500 Sulgrave Avenue
Construction Date: ca. 1877-1898
Town/Vicinity: Mount Washington
County: Baltimore City
Access: private

Summary Description:

The former fire station/fire house at 1500 Sulgrave Avenue served the Mount Washington Community during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. It is a two-and-one-half story serpentine ashlar structure with brick segmental arch lintels. It has an intersecting gable roof with an inset pyramidal-roof tower. The north leg of the intersecting gables terminates in a polygonal hip-roof on its east end. Original windows are 2/2 hung wood sashes. A shed roof porch projects off the first stage of the tower, below which is a single-leaf entry door. The engine house bay, located on the south side of the building, has been enclosed with a plate glass window. A two-story frame addition is located on the east elevation of the building. Western Run runs along north side of building. The engine house has been converted into office space. The serpentine ashlar structure appears to be the only extant structure in central Mount Washington constructed of serpentine, which was mined in the Bare Hills area of Baltimore County. The station was built between 1877 and 1898.

Statement of Significance

Most of historic Mount Washington is located within the local Mount Washington Historic District, created by City Ordinance 86 (6/16/1988). Mount Washington is "considered by some sources to be Baltimore's first suburb" (B-4495). The village was founded along the Northern Central Railway in 1853-54. The railroad enabled residents and summer retreat visitors access to and from Baltimore via a 15-minute train ride. The former fire house was part of the historic central business district of Mount Washington, a planned community founded in 1853-54. The boundaries of the local Mount Washington District (B-4495) do not contain this structure, however, a National Register historic district that would include the historic domestic, commercial, civic, religious, and education-related architecture of Mount Washington should include this building as a contributing resource. Mount Washington is eligible for listing in the National Register as a district under criterion C. This building is interesting, however it has been altered with an obtrusive modern frame addition; It is not known to have been associated with people or events significant to the history of the locality, state, or nation, therefore it does not appear individually eligible for listing in the National Register under criteria A, B, or C.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-1310
Magi No.
DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Engine House

and/or common Former Fire Station

2. Location

street & number 1500 Sulgrave Avenue

not for publication

city, town Baltimore (Mount Washington)

vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland

county Baltimore City

3. Classification

Category

- district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

- public
 private
 both

Public Acquisition

- in process
 being considered
 not applicable

Status

- occupied
 unoccupied
 work in progress

Accessible

- yes: restricted
 yes: unrestricted
 no

Present Use

- agriculture
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military

- museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name 1500 Sulgrave Associates Limited Partnership

street & number 1500 Sulgrave Avenue

telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore

state and zip code 21209-3616

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Maryland Department of Real Estate and Taxation

liber SB

street & number accessed online at <[http:// www.DAT.state.md.us](http://www.DAT.state.md.us)>

folio 1784/230

city, town

state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Cultural Resources Investigations for Proposed Construction of Double Track, North Half, Central Light Rail, Baltimore & Baltimore Co., MD

date 1999

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

federal state county local

city, town Crownsville

state MD

7. Description

Survey No. B-1310

Condition

- excellent
 good
 fair

- deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
 altered

Check one

- original site
 moved

date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary

The former fire station/fire house at 1500 Sulgrave Avenue served the Mount Washington Community during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries prior to its conversion to office space. The serpentine ashlar structure appears to be the only extant structure in central Mount Washington constructed of serpentine, which was mined in the Bare Hills area of Baltimore County. Mount Washington is a planned community founded in 1853-54 along the Northern Central Railway. The station was built between 1877 and 1898, when it first appears on the Bromley map.

General Description

The former fire station/fire house at 1500 Sulgrave Avenue is a two-and-one-half story serpentine ashlar structure with brick segmental arch lintels. It has an intersecting gable roof with an inset pyramidal-roof tower. The north leg of the intersecting gables terminates in a polygonal hip-roof on its east end. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles. Original windows are 2/2 hung wood sashes. A shed roof porch (one-story, one-bay) projects off the first stage of the tower, below which is a single-leaf entry door. The engine house bay, located on the south side of the building, has been enclosed with a plate glass window. A two-story frame addition is located on the east/southeast elevation of the building. Western Run runs along north side of building. The bank is retained by a granite retaining wall. The engine house has been converted into office space.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-1310

Period	Areas of Significance-	Check and justify below	
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	

Specific dates: ca. 1880s

Builder/Architect: unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Statement of Significance

This late-nineteenth century engine house served Mount Washington, a planned community founded in 1854 around the former female seminary, commonly known as Mount Saint Agnes. The boundaries of the local Mount Washington District (B-4495) do not contain this structure; however, a historic district that includes the historic domestic, commercial, civic, religious, and education-related architecture of Mount Washington should include this building as a contributing resource. This building does not appear individually eligible for listing in the National Register, though it would be a contributing resource to a potential Mount Washington National Register Historic District.

History

Most of historic Mount Washington is located within the local Mount Washington Historic District, created by City Ordinance 86 (6/16/1988). Mount Washington is "considered by some sources to be Baltimore's first suburb" (B-4495). The village was founded along the Northern Central Railway in 1854. The railroad enabled residents and summer retreat visitors access to and from Baltimore via a 15-minute train ride.

Reverend Elias Heiner and real estate speculator George Gelbach, Jr., were responsible for the development and settlement of Mount Washington. The two, along with Thomas Dixon, initiated the planning of the community in 1854. Heiner founded a female seminary atop a hill overlooking the Mount Washington Mill village of Washingtonville, located across the NCR tracks to the east. The college was chartered in 1856 as the first college for women organized under the auspices of the Reformed Church. The centerpiece of the campus is a building designed and built in the Octagon Mode, popularized in the 1850s by the writings of Orson S. Fowler. The female college closed in 1861, and was replaced by the Mt. Saint Agnes Academy in 1867.

Concurrent with the founding of the college, Thomas Dixon was developing a suburban community known as Dixon Hill to the west of the campus. Dixon is credited as the architect of the octagon building, built in 1855. The center of Mount Washington, located on the railroad tracks, was the location of the commercial, civic, and religious buildings, the development of which was sponsored by George Gelbach. Most of the early buildings were constructed of either frame or stone. Developed by plan, Mount Washington, including Dixon Hill was designed to provide a respite from city life.

8. Significance (continuation)

Survey No. B-1310

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D

Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Comments: _____

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, NR Program

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-1310

- Bromley, G.W. & Company. 1898. *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*. G.W. Bromley & Co., Philadelphia. Copy on File, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD.
- _____. 1915. *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*. G.W. Bromley & Co., Philadelphia. Copy on File, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD.
- Commission on Historic and Architectural Preservation (C.H.A.P.) n.d. Mount Washington vertical files. On file in the CHAP office, Baltimore, MD.
- Gunnarsson, Robert L. 1991. *The Story of the Northern Central Railway*. Greenberg Publishing Company, Sykesville, Maryland.
- Hopkins, G.M. 1877. *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*. Philadelphia. Copy on File, Baltimore County Historical Society, Cockeysville, MD.
- Pennsylvania Railroad. 1916. *Present Alignment and General Situation between Melvale and Padonia, Baltimore Division, P.R.R.* Office of the Assistant Engineer, Engineering Department, P.R.R., Baltimore, MD. In the Williams Collection.
- Sides, William. 1854. *Map of Mount Washington on the Line of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Rail Road and Falls Turnpike*. A. Hoen & Co., Baltimore. Copy on File, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD.
- Williams, Robert L. n.d. Personal notes and compiled information on the history of the NCR. Original documents, maps, drawings.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: .209 ac.

Quadrangle name Baltimore West 7.5'

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM Reference do NOT complete UTM references

Zone easting northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundaries correspond to the legal parcel associated with the building. Map 27, Section 17, Block 4652J, Lot 1.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kerri Culhane/Project Architectural Historian

organization John Milner Associates, Inc.

date 10/1999

street & number 5250 Cherokee Avenue, Suite 410

telephone 703/354-9737

city or town Alexandria

state Virginia

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
 DHCP/DHCD
 100 Community Place
 Crownsville, MD 21032

**PRESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS**

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric; historic)

III. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

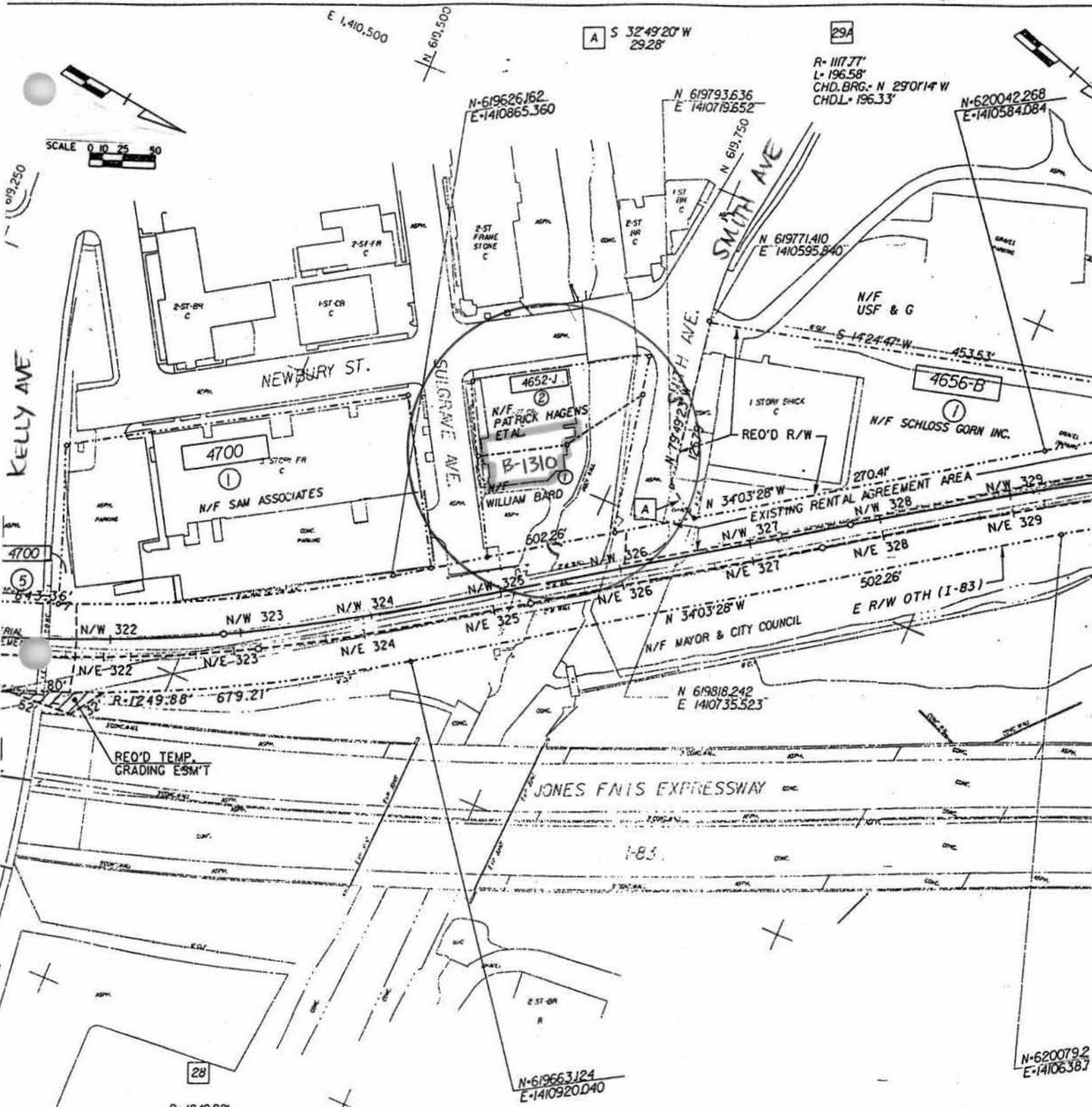
IV. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): GOVERNMENT: firestation; firehouse

Known Design Source: none



A S 32°49'20" W 29.28'

29A

R-1117.77
L-196.58'
CHD.BRG.- N 29°01'4" W
CHDL- 196.33'

N-620042.268
E-1410584.084

N 619793.636
E 1410719.652

N-619626.162
E-1410865.360

N 619771.410
E 1410595.840

4656-B

4700

4652-J

N/F PATRICK HAGENS ET AL

B-1310

WILLIAM BARD

602.26'

N 34°03'28" W

N/W 327

N/E 327

N 34°03'28" W

N/E 326

N 34°03'28" W

N/E 325

N 34°03'28" W

N/E 324

N 34°03'28" W

N/E 323

N 34°03'28" W

N/E 322

N 34°03'28" W

N/E 321

N 34°03'28" W

N/E 320

N 34°03'28" W

N/E 319

N 34°03'28" W

N/E 318

N 34°03'28" W

N/E 317

N 34°03'28" W

N/E 316

4700

5

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

52

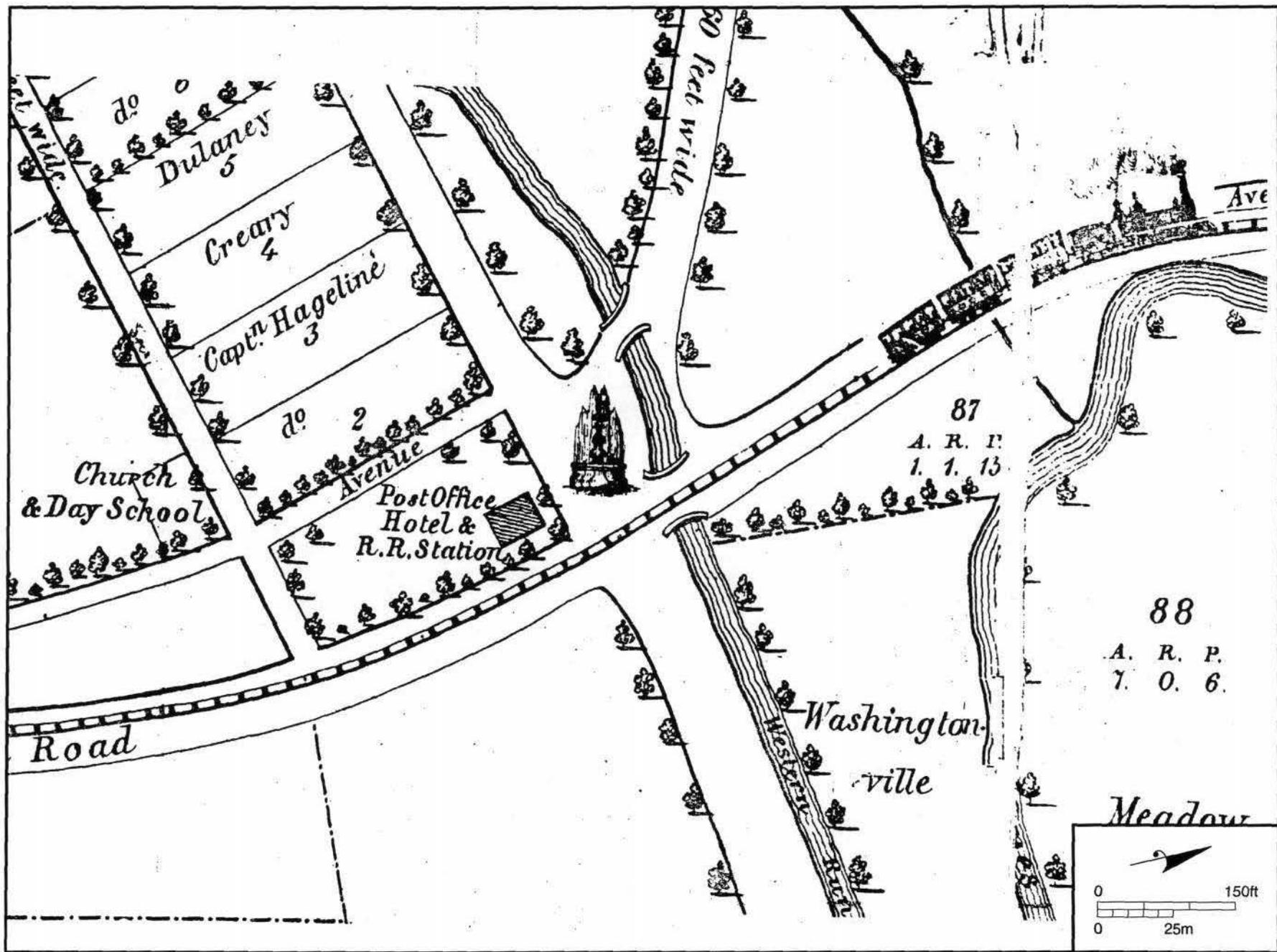
52

R-1249.88'
L-679.21'
CHD.BRG.- N 18°29'23" W
CHDL- 670.89

N-619663.124
E-1410920.040

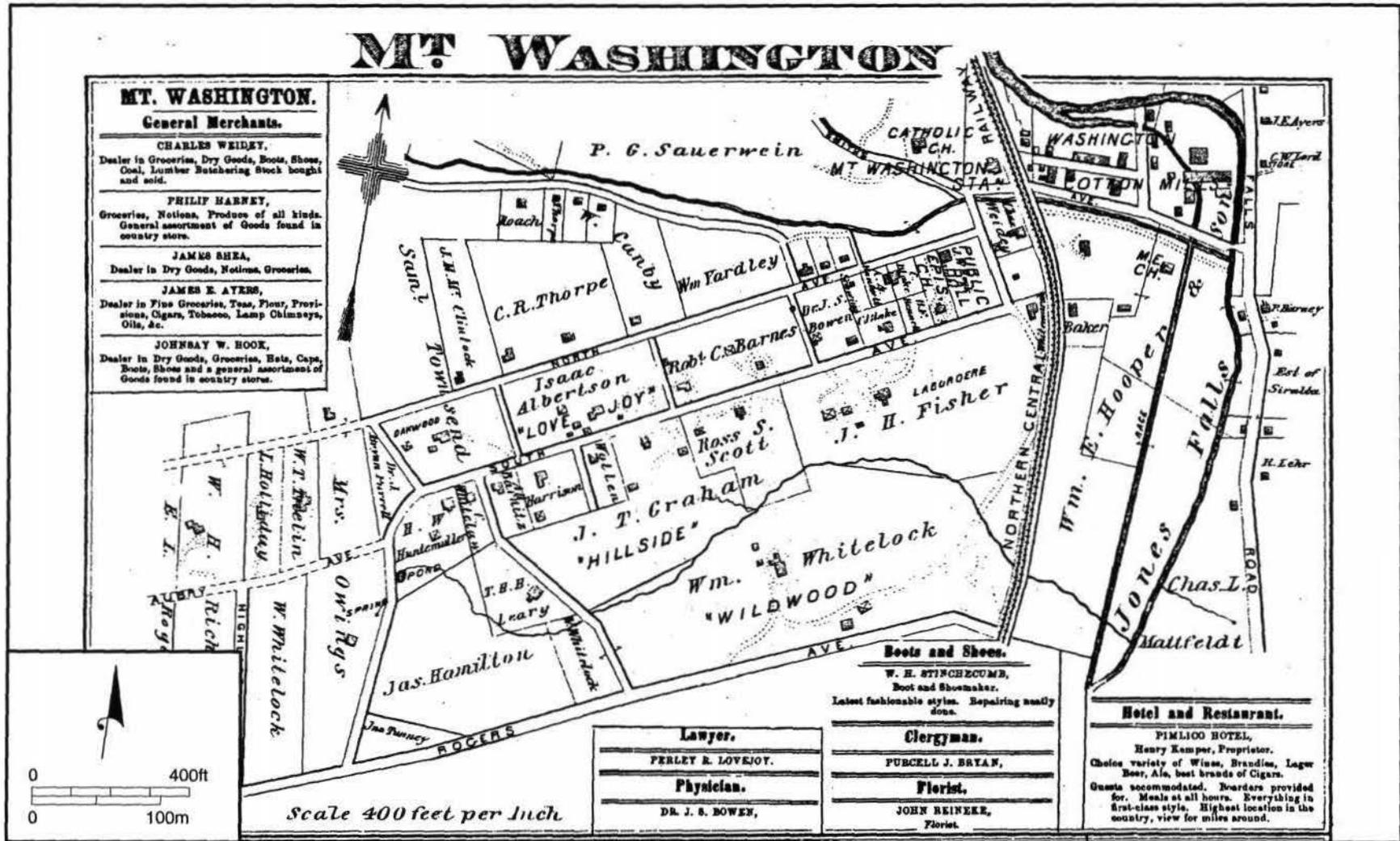
N-620079.2
E-1410638.7

NOTE:
ALL PROPERTY LINES ARE GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATIONS FROM PUBLIC RECORDS UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE.



Detail of Mt. Washington as shown on the 1854 Sides map.

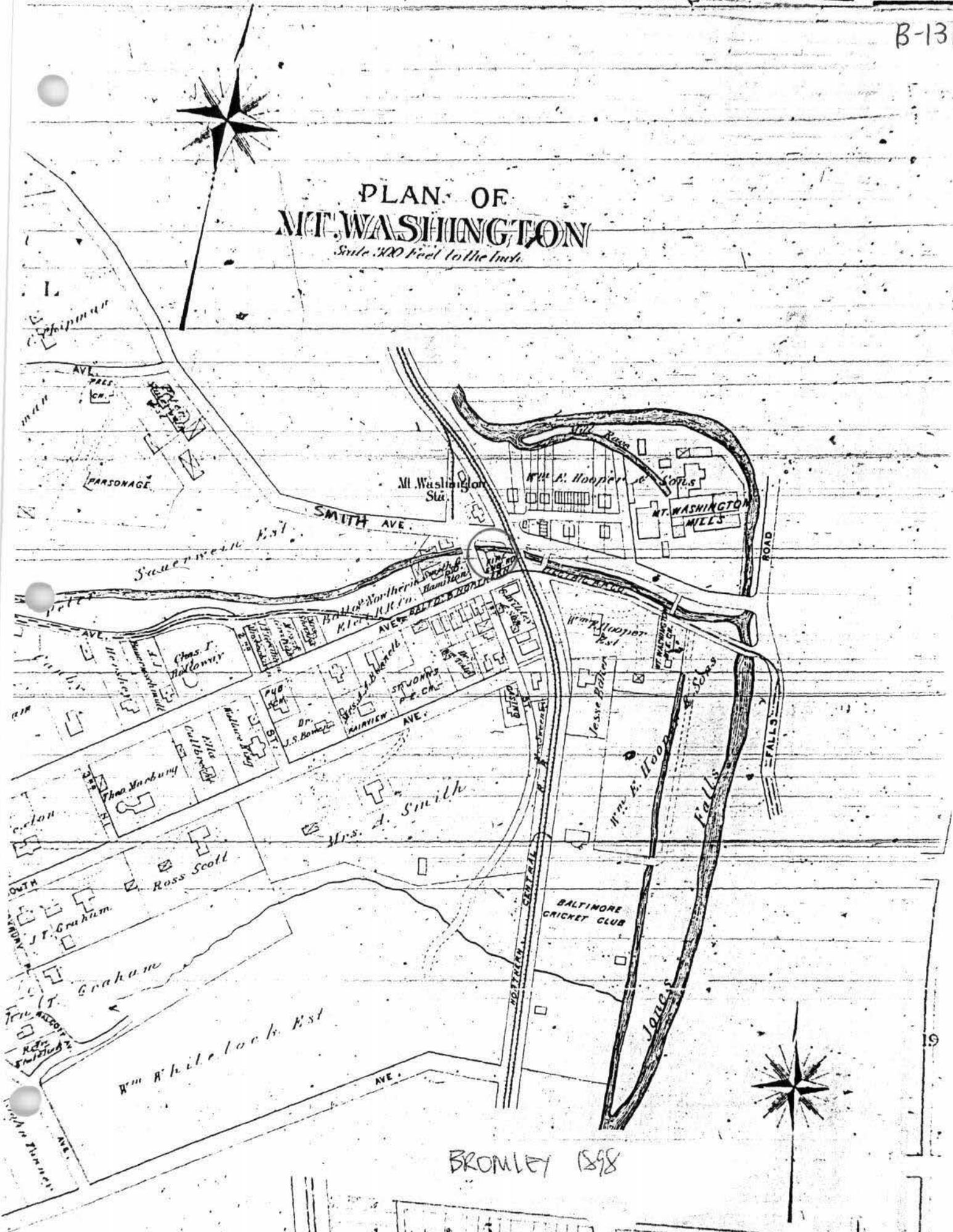
B-1310



Detail of Mt. Washington as shown on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas.

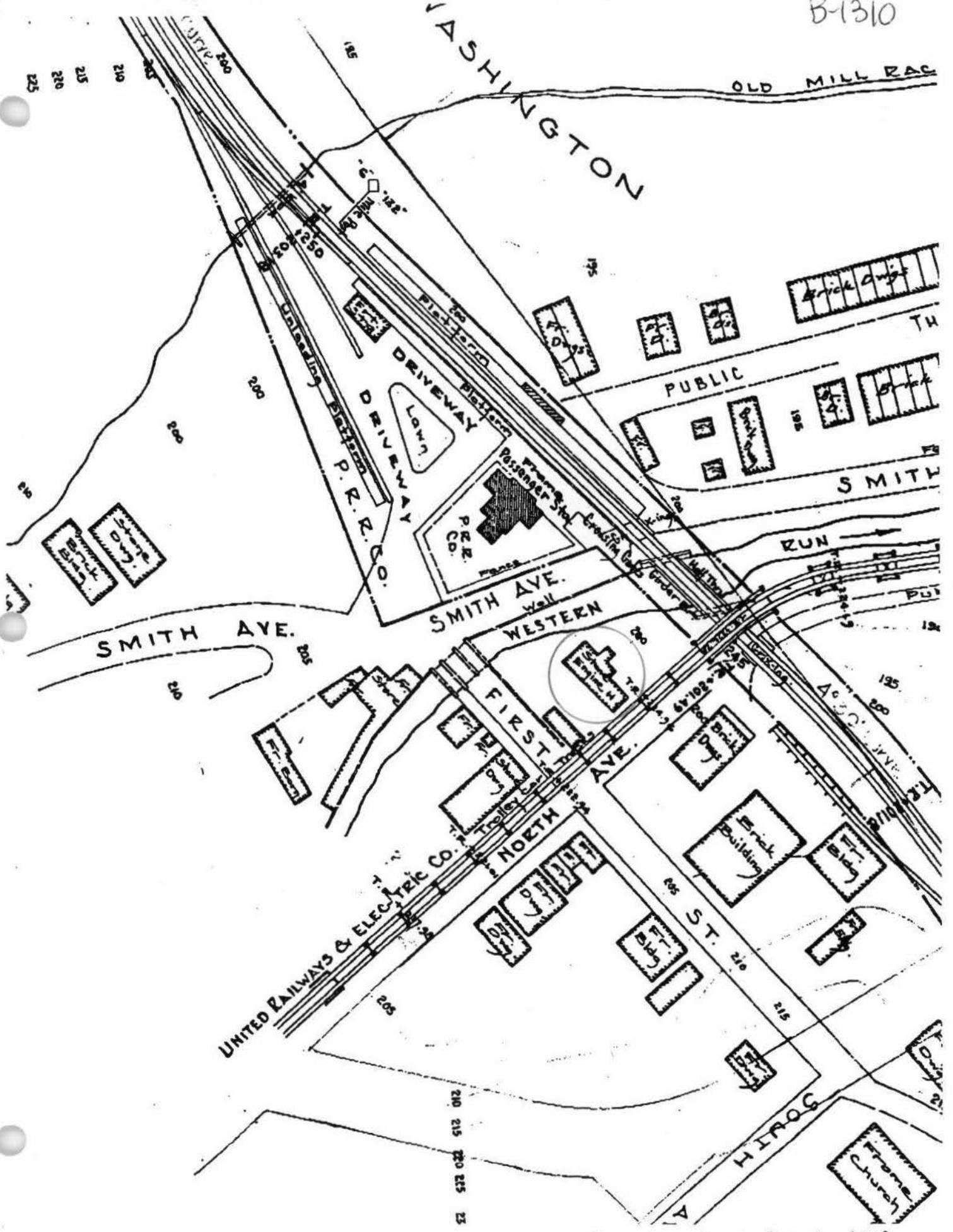
PLAN OF MT. WASHINGTON

Scale 300 Feet to the Inch.



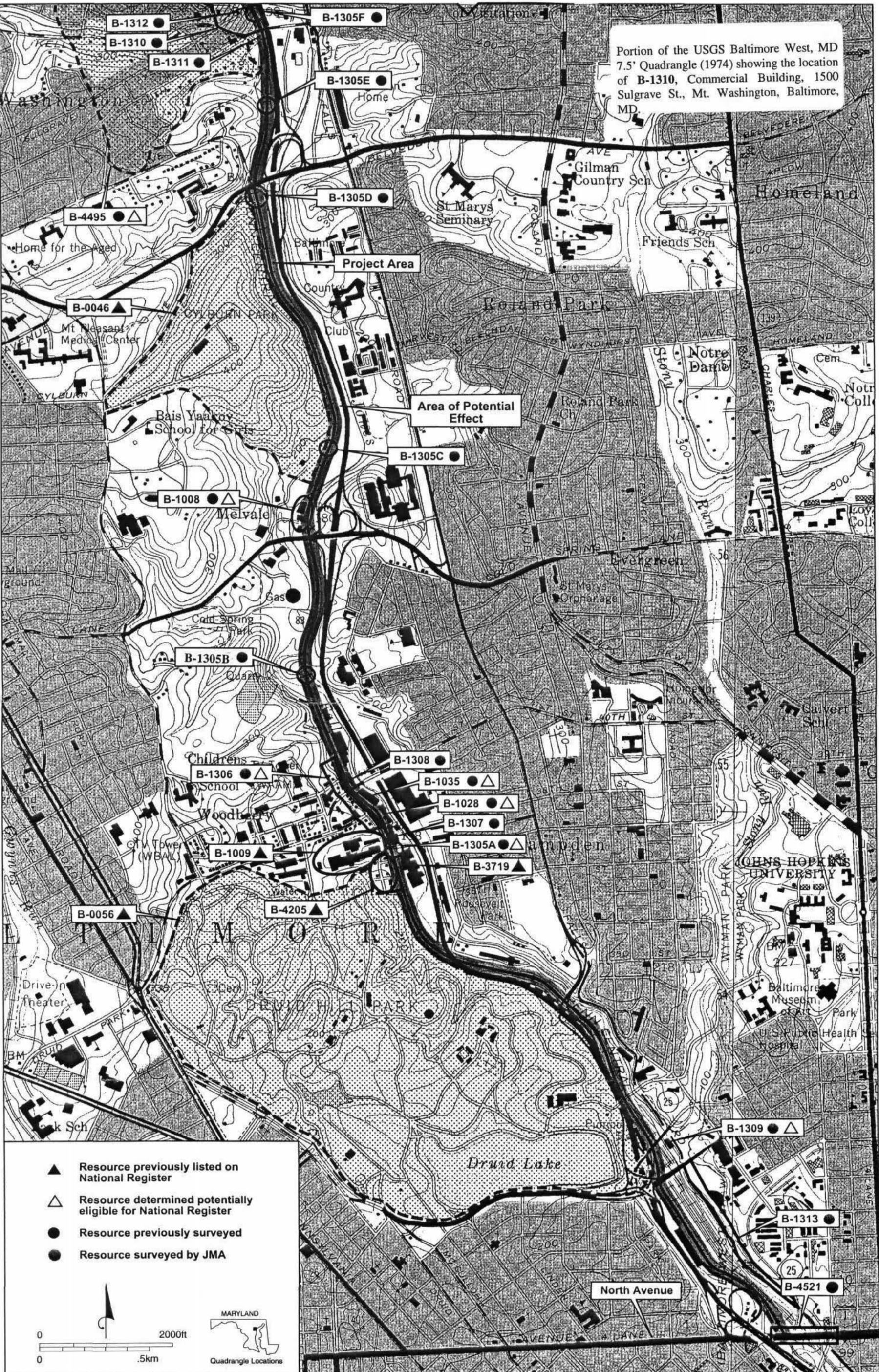
BROMLEY 1898

B-1310

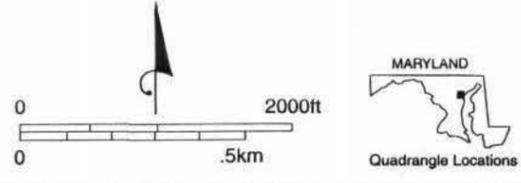


Pennsylvania Railroad 1916

Portion of the USGS Baltimore West, MD 7.5' Quadrangle (1974) showing the location of B-1310, Commercial Building, 1500 Sulgrave St., Mt. Washington, Baltimore, MD.



- ▲ Resource previously listed on National Register
- △ Resource determined potentially eligible for National Register
- Resource previously surveyed
- Resource surveyed by JMA



B-1310



B-1310

FORMER FIRE HOUSE, 1500 SUBRAVE RD., MT. WASHINGTON
BALTIMORE, MD

K. O'LIANE

8/1999

MD SHPO.

VIEW TO NW



B-1310

FORMER FIRE HOUSE, 1500 SULGRAVE RD, MT. WASHINGTON
BALTIMORE, MD

K. CULHANE

8/1999

MD SHPD

STATION BAY NOW ENCLOSED. VIEW TO NORTH



B-1310

FORMER FIRE HOUSE, 1500 SULGRAVE RD, MT WASHINGTON

BALTIMORE, MD

K. CULHANE

8/1999

MD SHPO

VIEW TO SOUTH