

Name/Address: Commercial Building, 5708 Newbury Street
Construction Date: ca. 1880s
Town/Vicinity: Mount Washington
County: Baltimore City
Access: private

Summary Description:

This commercial building is part of the historic commercial district of Mount Washington, a planned community founded in 1853-54 along the Baltimore & Susquehanna/Northern Central Railway tracks north of Baltimore. The commercial building is composed of two, two-story masses, one stepped back from the other. The southern mass is a two-story, two-bay-wide frame commercial building with a flat roof behind a bracketed cornice. It has 2/2 wood sash windows, a single-leaf door and modern show window. It is sided in asbestos shingles. There is an interior side chimney in the stepped parapet side walls. The north block facade is set approximately ten feet west, or back from, the southern half. It is located at the corner of Newbury and Smith Streets. It is similar to the southern half, however it is three bays wide with 3/4 length windows at the first floor. It also has a two-bay, one-story, shed roof porch.

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. This late-nineteenth century commercial building was part of the historic central business district of Mount Washington, a planned community founded in 1853-54 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 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 not architecturally distinctive, nor is it 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. However, it would be a contributing resource to a potential Mount Washington National Register Historic District.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-1312

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Commercial Building, 5708 Newbury Street (preferred)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 5708 Newbury Street

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 Stanley and Esther Klein

street & number 2215 Ken Oak Road

telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore

state and zip code 21209

5. Location of Legal Description

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

liber WA

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

folio 3763/572

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-1312

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

This commercial building is part of the historic commercial district of Mount Washington, a planned community founded in 1853-54 along the Baltimore & Susquehanna/Northern Central Railway tracks north of Baltimore. The commercial building is composed of two masses, one stepped back from the other. The building includes typical late-nineteenth-century detailing, such as the cornice brackets and 2/2 wood sash windows.

General Description

The commercial building at 5708 Newbury Street is composed of two distinct but attached masses, the northern mass being stepped back from the facade of the southern mass. At one time, these may have been considered two separate buildings, though they are now numbered as one. The solid (uncoursed granite ashlar) foundation of the southern block appears to rise from, and is contiguous with, the random granite ashlar retaining wall of Western Run to the southeast. The superstructure is a two-story, two-bay-wide frame commercial building with a flat roof behind a bracketed cornice. It has 2/2 wood sash windows, a single-leaf door and modern show window. It is sided in asbestos shingles. There is an interior side chimney in the stepped parapet side walls. The north block is located at the corner of Newbury and Smith Streets. It is similar to the southern half, however it is three-bays wide with 3/4 length windows at the first floor. It also has a two-bay, one-story, shed roof porch.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-1312

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	

Specific dates: ca. 1880

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 commercial building was part of the historic central business district of Mount Washington, a planned community founded in 1853-54 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 would include the historic domestic, commercial, civic, religious, and education-related architecture of Mount Washington should include this building as a contributing resource. This building is not architecturally distinctive, nor is it 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, 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 1853-54. 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 1853. 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 also 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 (Continued)

Survey No. B-1312

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-1312

- 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: .125 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

Boundary correspond to the legal parcel associated with the building Map 27, Section 17, Block 4652I, Lot 24A

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

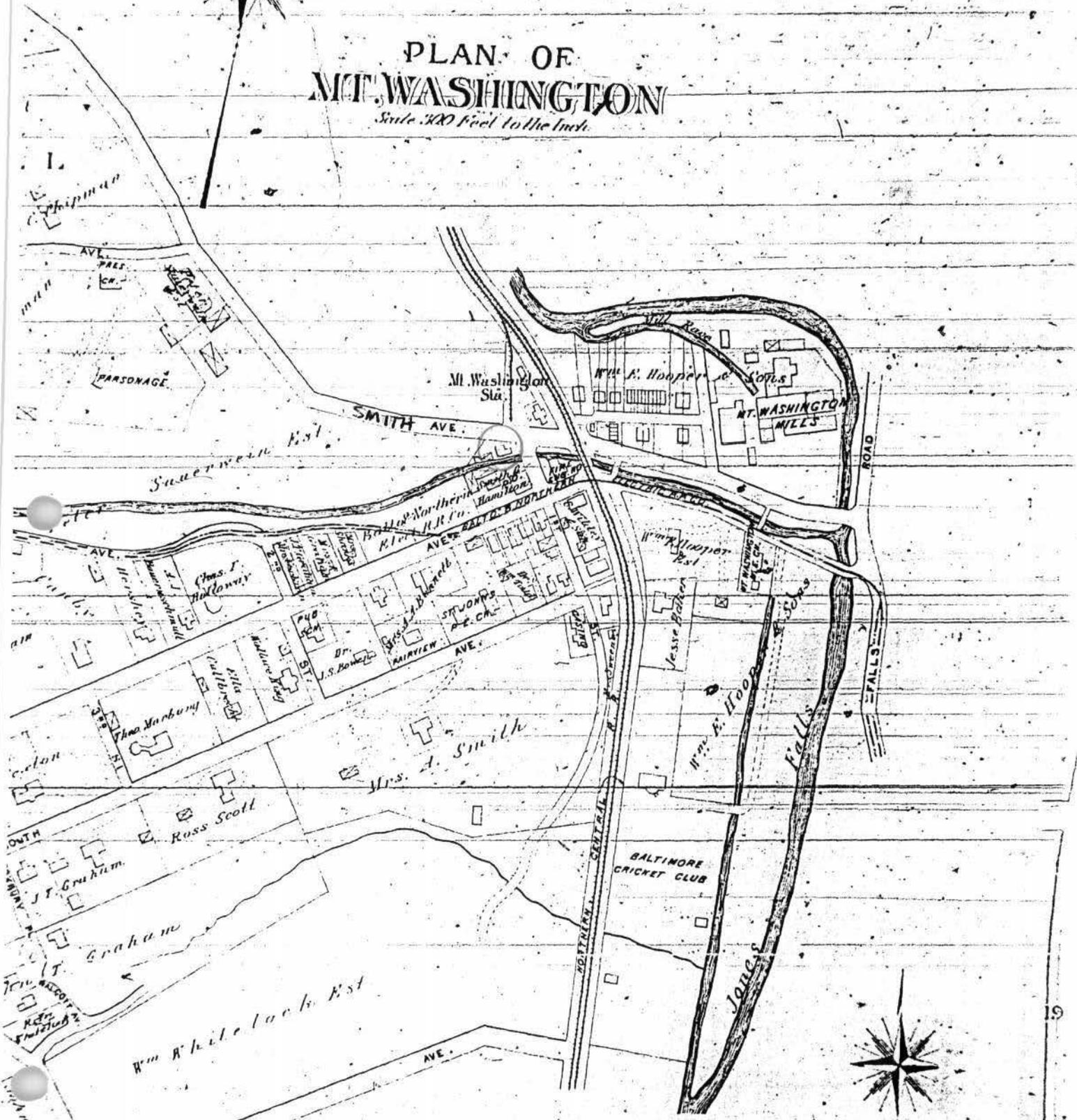
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty stores

Known Design Source: none

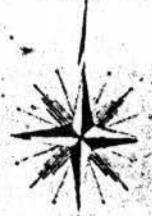
B-1312

PLAN OF MT. WASHINGTON

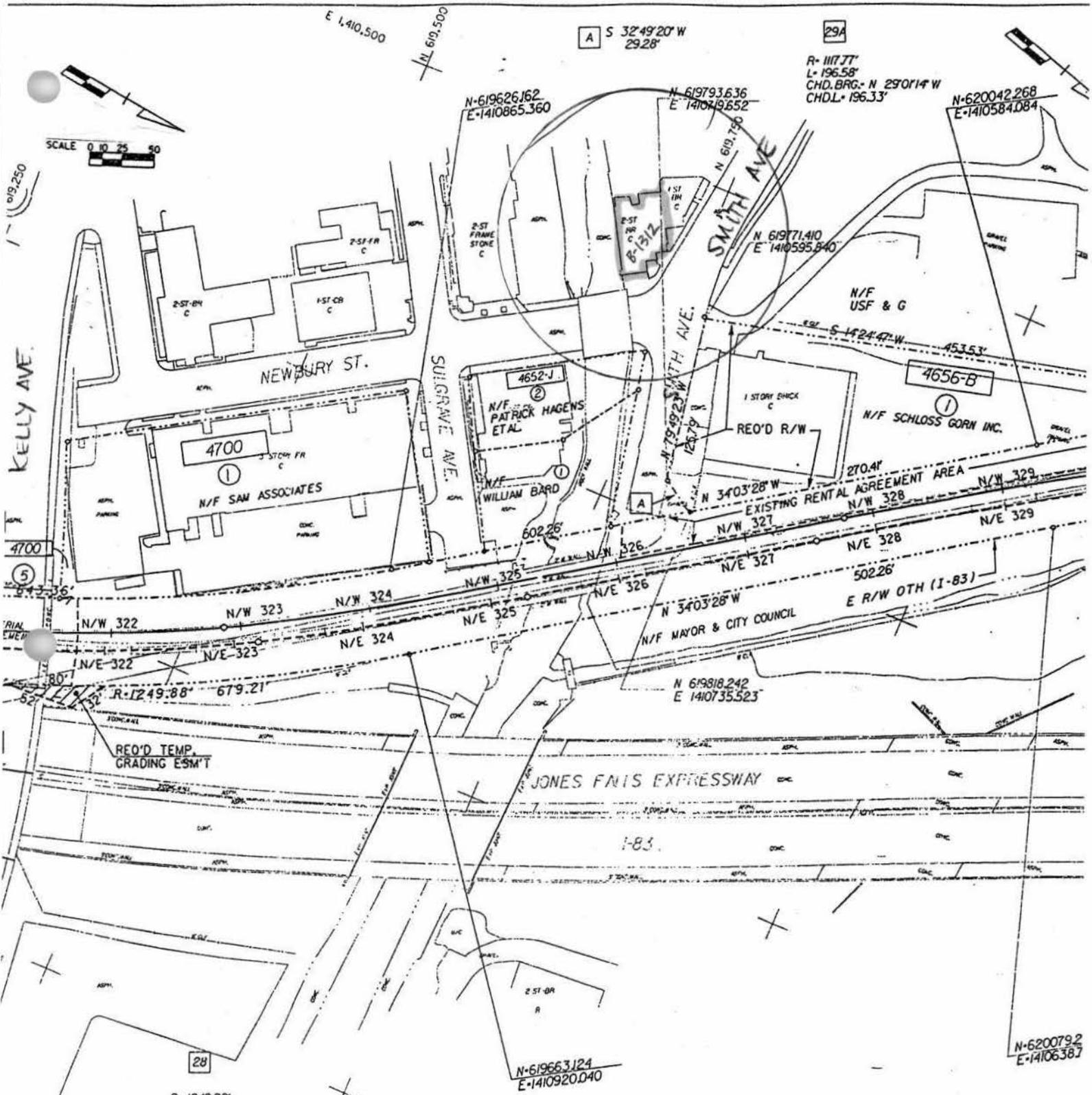
Scale 300 Feet to the Inch.



BROMLEY 1898



19



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-619626.162
E-1410865.360

N-619793.636
E-1410819.652

N-619771.410
E-1410595.840

4652-J
N/F PATRICK HAGENS
ETAL

4656-B
N/F SCHLOSS GORN INC.

4700
N/F SAM ASSOCIATES

602.26'
N/F WILLIAM BARD

REO'D R/W
EXISTING RENTAL AGREEMENT AREA

N/W 322

N/W 323

N/W 324

N/W 325

N/W 326

N/W 327

N/W 328

N/W 329

N/E 322

N/E 323

N/E 324

N/E 325

N/E 326

N/E 327

N/E 328

N/E 329

REO'D TEMP.
GRADING ESM'T

JONES FALLS EXPRESSWAY

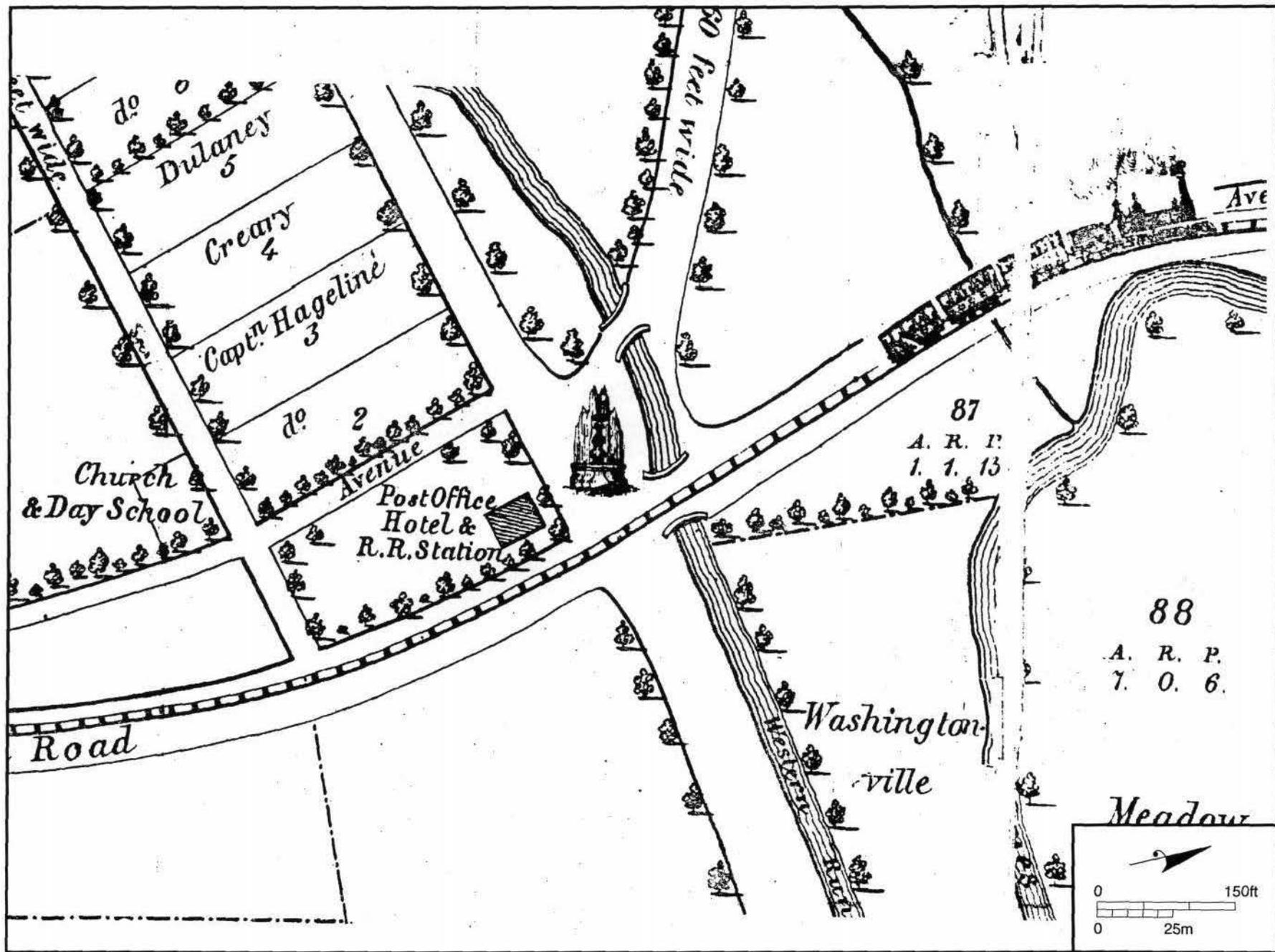
I-83

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

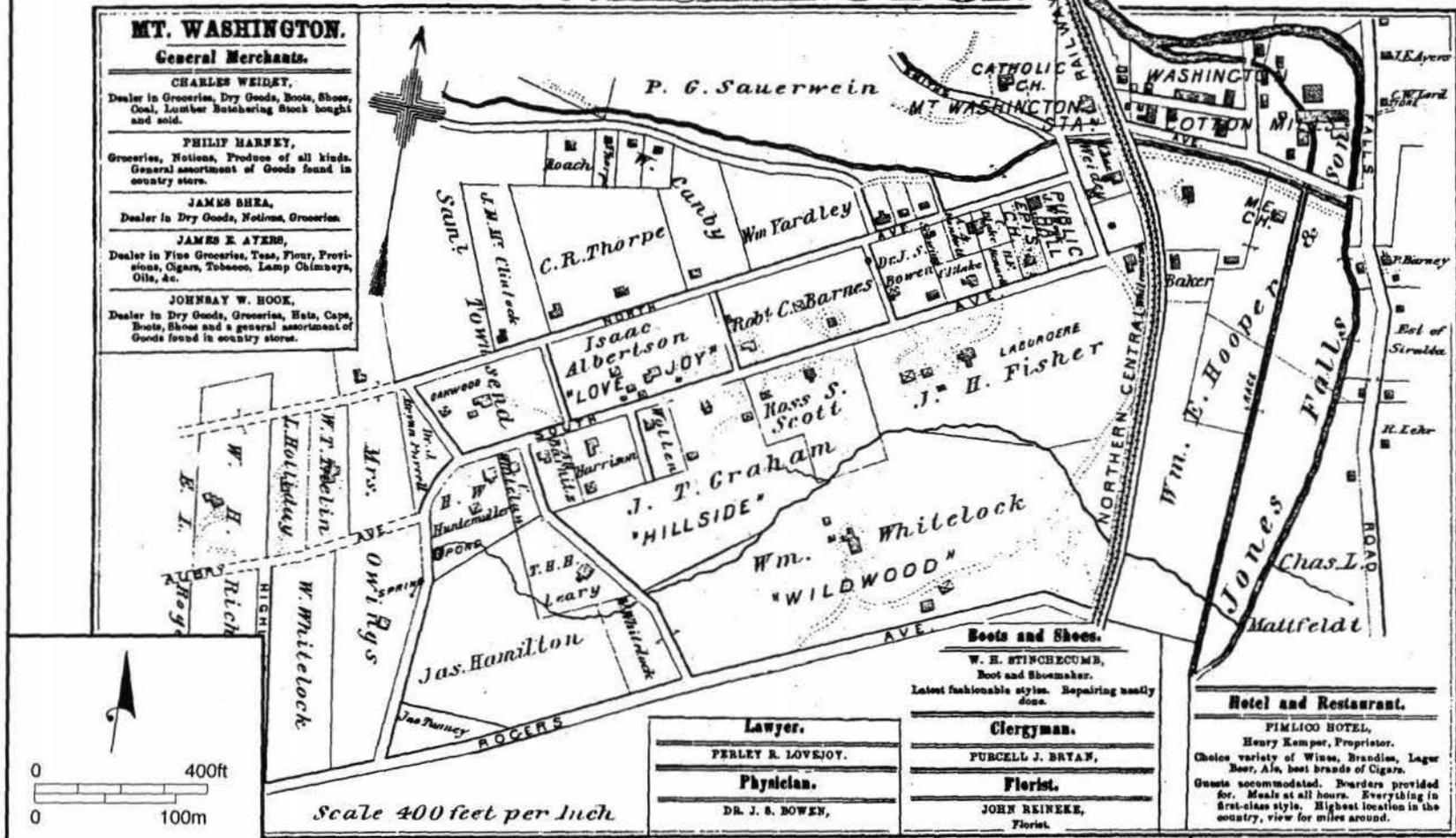
NOTE:
ALL PROPERTY LINES ARE GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATIONS
FROM PUBLIC RECORDS UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE.



B-1312

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

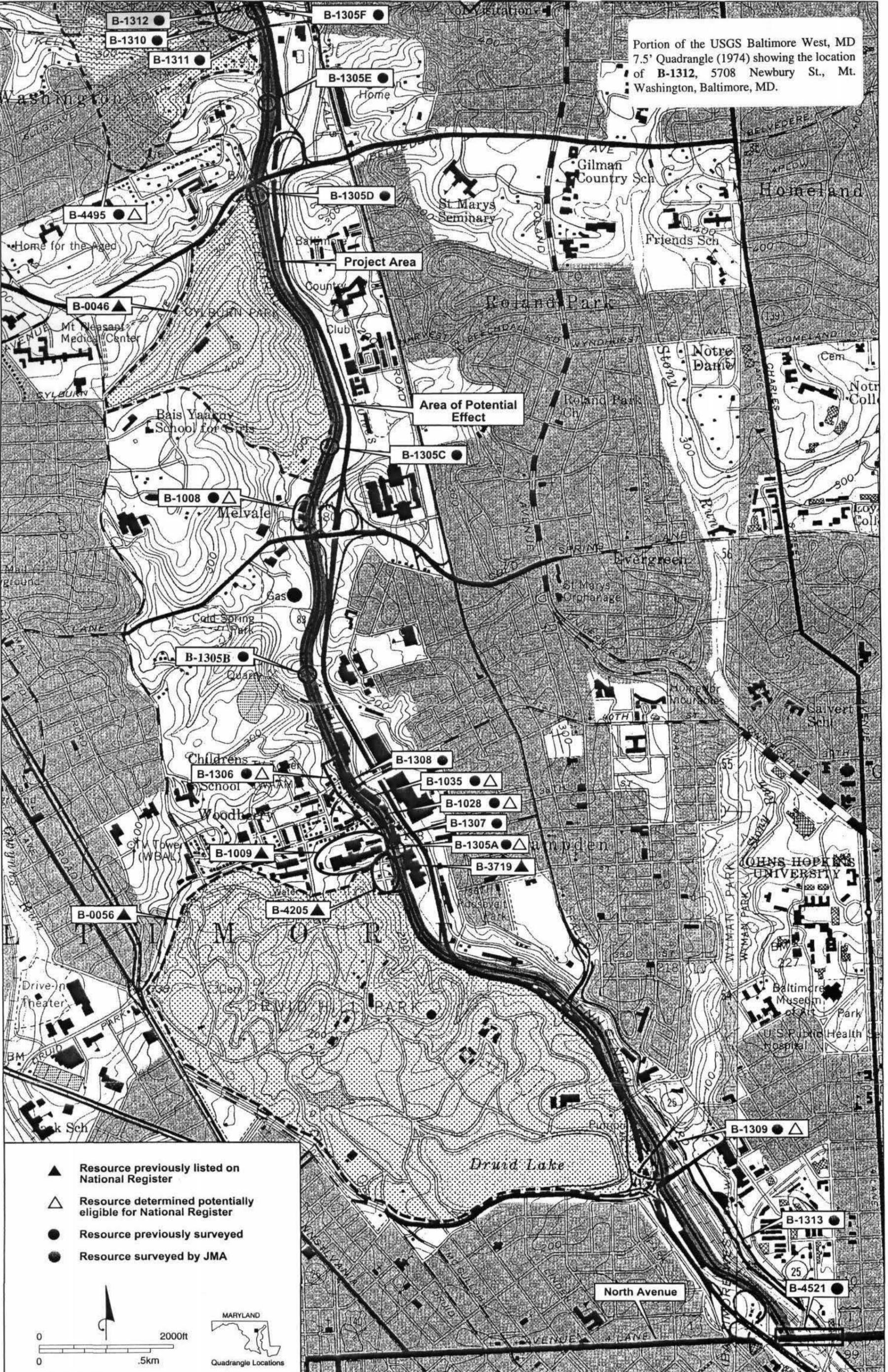
MT. WASHINGTON



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

B-1312

Portion of the USGS Baltimore West, MD 7.5' Quadrangle (1974) showing the location of B-1312, 5708 Newbury St., Mt. Washington, Baltimore, MD.





B-1312

Commercial Building, 5708 Newbury Street, Mt. Washington
Baltimore, MD

K. CURRANE

8/1999

MD SHPO

VIEW TO NW, SOUTHERN HALF OF COMMERCIAL BLOCK



B-1312

Commercial Bldg., 5708 Newbury Street, Mt. Washington
Baltimore, MD

K. CURRANE

8/1999

NO SHPO

view to west.



B-1312

Commercial Building, 5708 Newbury Street

Baltimore, MD

K. Culhane

8/1999

MD SHPO

View to SW. Northern half, commercial block.



B- 1312

Commercial Building, 5708 Newbury street
Baltimore, MD

k. Culhane

8/1999

MD SHPO

REAR (W) ELEVATION VIEW TO EAST.