

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**B-5247**

**Robert S. Carswell House**

**1417 Gorsuch Avenue**

**Baltimore, Maryland**

**1876-1889**

**Private**

The Robert S. Carswell House located at 1417 Gorsuch Avenue represents early suburbanization of Homestead and an influx of middle-class Baltimoreans to the city's periphery in the second half of the nineteenth century. Constructed sometime between 1876 and 1889 as a rental property, the dwelling signifies the neighborhood's increased desirability following continued infrastructure improvements completed after Baltimore City's annexation of the region in 1888. The architecturally significant building remains one of the last remaining Queen Anne-styled residences in Homestead; it continues to reflect late-nineteenth-century suburban ideals with its wood-framed construction, large lot size, and setback. The dwelling directly contrasts the subsequent twentieth-century brick row house infill, creating a dramatic juxtaposition of two development periods.

The two-and-a-half-story, cross-gabled Queen Anne-inspired dwelling was constructed in the fourth-quarter of the nineteenth century. The building is not evident on the G.M. Hopkins' 1876 *City Atlas of Baltimore and Environs*, but is shown on G.W. Bromley and Company's 1896 *Atlas of the City of Baltimore Maryland*. The rectangular-shaped dwelling consists of a front-gabled projection with entry porch on the façade. Set on a parged stone foundation, the wood-frame building has been reclad in vinyl siding, a synthetic that also obscures the original window surrounds and sills. The façade's front gable end is raked with a simple cornice featuring acorn drop pendants at the apex and along both extents. The east and south elevations of the upper gable end have decorative bargeboard and repeats the acorn drop pendants found on the façade; the remaining cornice continues the bargeboard's motif, but is partially obscured by gutters. A one-story hipped roof porch is located in the recessed northeast corner and extends beyond the east elevation. The main block's roof and porch roof are covered with slate shingles and asphalt shingles, respectively. An interior-side brick chimney with a simple brick cap pierces the roof on the eastern slope.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-5247

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Robert S. Carswell House

other

### 2. Location

street and number 1417 Gorsuch Avenue \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Baltimore \_\_\_ vicinity

county

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

name Stephanie D. Moyd

street and number 1417 Gorsuch Avenue telephone

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21218-3623

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber 2901 folio 174

city, town Baltimore tax map 9 tax parcel 15 tax ID number 09164111015

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District  
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Recorded by HABS/HAER  
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count		
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	___	___
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	___	1
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	___	___
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1	3
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	___	___
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b> 0	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

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## 7. Description

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

The two-and-a-half-story, cross-gabled Queen Anne-inspired dwelling at 1417 Gorsuch Avenue was constructed in the fourth-quarter of the nineteenth century. The building is not evident on the G.M. Hopkins' 1876 *City Atlas of Baltimore and Environs*, but is shown on G.W. Bromley and Company's 1896 *Atlas of the City of Baltimore Maryland*. The rectangular-shaped dwelling consists of a front-gabled projection with entry porch on the façade. Set on a parged stone foundation, the wood-frame building has been reclad in vinyl siding, a synthetic that also obscures the original window surrounds and sills. The façade's front gable end is raked with a simple cornice featuring acorn drop pendants at the apex and along both extents. The east and south elevations of the upper gable end have decorative bargeboard and repeats the acorn drop pendants found on the façade; the remaining cornice continues the bargeboard's motif, but is partially obscured by gutters. A one-story hipped roof porch is located in the recessed northeast corner and extends beyond the east elevation. The main block's roof and porch roof are covered with slate shingles and asphalt shingles, respectively. An interior-side brick chimney with a simple brick cap pierces the roof on the eastern slope.

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps document alterations to the main block of the house. The 1901-1902 map indicates that the façade's one-story porch did not initially project beyond the face of the east elevation until the late 1920s, as indicated by the 1926-1928 map. Also, a recessed (inset) two-story porch was indicated on the Sanborn maps on the southeast corner (rear) of the dwelling by 1914; this porch may have been original but not depicted on the 1901-1902 map. Other alterations include the enclosure of the recessed porch's second story, leaving only the first story exposed by the late 1920s. The 1914-1951 map does not show any major alteration to the dwelling, but since that time, the recessed porch has been completely enclosed to provide additional living space.

### Setting

The house is set back approximately 20 feet from the south side of Gorsuch Avenue, with an alley bounding the property to the south. The entire lot is edged by a large wood privacy fence installed in the late 2000s. From the concrete sidewalk, the property is accessed via a concrete stair with a chain link gate that leads to a brick path. The path continues to the front porch and extends along the east elevation to the rear of the building. A manicured lawn, non-historic above-ground circular pool, and one-story gable roof garden shed are located to the east of the dwelling. The shed has vertically orientated weatherboard siding, an asphalt shingle roof, and a visible 1/1 vinyl window on the north elevation. A brick patio and concrete pad are located directly south of the building. In the southwest corner are two one-story sheds—an asphalt shingle, gambrel roof shed with vertical weatherboard siding and an open, prefabricated metal tool shed. The east side of the property has a large manicured lawn that extends onto the adjacent lot. A small concrete driveway is located on the alley, but is separated by the wood privacy fence.

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### Exterior

The north elevation (façade) is three bays wide with the entry located in the recessed eastern bay under a one-story, one-bay, asphalt-shingled hipped roof porch. The wood-frame porch is accessed to the east by a concrete stair with a simple metal handrail and spiral balustrade on its southern side. The porch has a solid parged foundation, is supported by four square wood posts and two pilasters, and features a spiral metal balustrade. At the center of the porch ceiling is a contemporary bowl ceiling fixture. The single-leaf paneled wood door contains a lunette light and is accessed through a metal screen door. The two western bays are centrally located on the front gable projection and have 1/1 windows covered by 1/1 vinyl storm windows.

On the second story of the north elevation, the recessed eastern bay contains no fenestration and the front gable projection consists of a single square oriel window. The oriel window features a molded wood cornice consisting of a scallop wood molding and cyma recta supported by wood brackets. The north elevation of the oriel consists of paired 1/1 windows and the east and west elevations each have a narrow 1/1 window. The windows are covered by 1/1 vinyl storm windows. In the upper gable end of the projection, the round arched window opening retains its original wood surround, but has a 1/1 vinyl replacement sash.

The first story of the west elevation consists of four bays: the three northern bays contain 1/1 windows and the southern bay contains a one-light slider window. The northern and southernmost windows are covered by vinyl storm windows. The second story contains four elongated 1/1 windows covered by 1/1 vinyl storm windows. The windows are symmetrically aligned with the first story except in the southernmost bay, which is located further to the north.

The south elevation (rear) is two bays wide. On the first story, the eastern bay consists of a single-leaf wood door with a diamond-shaped light; the door is set behind a synthetic screen door. The entry is accessed via a concrete stair and is covered by a metal awning. The western bay features a 1/1 window. The second story features two evenly spaced, elongated 1/1 windows. On both stories, the windows have 1/1 vinyl storm windows. The upper gable end features a round arched window opening that matches those on the façade with a 1/1 rectangular vinyl replacement window.

The first story of the east elevation is pierced by two window openings. The southernmost opening, located to the south of the cross gable, consists of a single-light slider window of unknown material. The northern bay, located under the one-story porch, features a 1/1 window covered by a 1/1 vinyl storm window and metal security bars. The second story of the east elevation contains three windows. The bay located on the southern extent has a narrow louvered wood-paneled vent. The subsequent three bays feature elongated 1/1 windows,

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all covered by 1/1 vinyl storm windows. The upper gable end features a round arched window opening that matches those on the façade with a 1/1 rectangular vinyl replacement window.

### Integrity

The single-family dwelling at 1417 Gorsuch Avenue is a representative example of a late-nineteenth-century house in form, style, massing, and materials. The Queen Anne-style house, although altered by the replacement of some historic materials and construction of minor additions, retains sufficient integrity. The location and setting are intact, representing the improvement of large residential lots in the block bounded by Gorsuch, Homewood, Homestead, and Kirk Avenues. Many of the surrounding blocks had been subdivided for the construction of row houses, which were erected after the turn of the twentieth century. Despite the need for housing, the lots on this square, fronting Gorsuch Avenue, have remained large and not further subdivided. The design of the building, as documented by historic maps and physical evidence, has not greatly changed since its construction, preserving the integrity. The massing is indicative of a modest Queen Anne-inspired dwelling dating from the late nineteenth century. The rectangular plan is augmented by a projecting front gable, entry porch, and recessed (inset) porch, which was later enclosed. Stylized detailing such as the molded cornices and the oriel window on the façade reflect the period during which the house was erected, speaking to advancing/changing building technologies, architectural fashions, and reorganization of interior/exterior spaces. The enclosure of the recessed porch is a common alteration to buildings from this period, providing additional interior living space. The extension of the front porch beyond the plane of the side elevation, a feature that may be original given the period when the house was erected and its expansive lot which would have been landscaped, is indicative of the Queen Anne style, an architectural expression which often wrapped houses in asymmetrically designed porches. Integrity of materials and workmanship have been affected by the enclosure of the recessed corner porch and application of vinyl siding over the original wood weatherboard siding. However, the recladding of historic buildings, especially in neighborhoods that have become more urbanized with the annexation of the city, is common and does not drastically alter the overall appearance of the house as originally presented. The windows are wood and have the same number of lights typical of a house of this period. The surrounds on the upper gable end windows are original and not clad in vinyl like those on the lower stories; it is possible the original wood surrounds, and weatherboard siding, remain intact under the vinyl siding. The form of the oriel window and ornately detailed wood cornice speak to the Queen Anne style. The house, originally sited and continuing to stand on a large lot, is representative of the construction that took place prior to the row house construction that dominated the neighborhood in the early twentieth century. Therefore, it retains sufficient integrity of feeling and association.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1876-1889

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1876-1889

Evaluation for:

 National Register Maryland Register not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Statement of Significance

The wood-framed dwelling located at 1417 Gorsuch Avenue represents early suburbanization of Homestead and an influx of middle-class Baltimoreans to the city's periphery in the second half of the nineteenth century. Constructed sometime between 1876 and 1889 as a rental property, the dwelling signifies the neighborhood's increased desirability following continued infrastructure improvements completed after Baltimore City's annexation of the region in 1888. The architecturally significant building remains one of the last remaining Queen Anne-styled residences in Homestead; it continues to reflect late-nineteenth-century suburban ideals with its wood-framed construction, large lot size, and setback. The dwelling directly contrasts the subsequent twentieth-century brick row house infill, creating a dramatic juxtaposition of two development periods.

### Historic Context -- Homestead

Many of Baltimore's wealthy merchants established their plantations in proximity to Harford and Belair Roads. In 1731, Thomas Gorsuch purchased and patented two land patents in Baltimore County called Ensor's Choice and Loveless's Addition, respectively.<sup>1</sup> Each consisting of 100 acres of land, the patents adjoined one another and were sited near present-day Clifton Park and Hillen Road. Thomas established his plantation dwelling on the two tracts and remained there until his death in 1774.<sup>2</sup> On February 14, 1752, he gifted the property to Thomas and John Gorsuch, his sons. Thomas acquired Loveless's Addition and John received Ensor's Choice.<sup>3</sup> The tracts, however, were resurveyed into a single 160-acre parcel called Gorsuch's Regulation and jointly

<sup>1</sup> Baltimore County Court Land Records, "John Ensor to Thomas Gorsuch," Liber IS L, Folio 145, <http://www.mdlandrec.net> (accessed June 12, 2012); J.H. P., "The Gorsuch and Lovelace Families (Continued)," *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 26 no. 2 (April 1918): 326.

<sup>2</sup> J.H.P., 327.

<sup>3</sup> J.H.P., 327.

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patented by the two sons in 1759.<sup>4</sup> The Gorsuch heirs continued to own the property and the estate, named Homestead, until 1852 when Robert Gorsuch, Jr. subdivided the ancestral land.<sup>5</sup>

Robert Gorsuch and his syndicate including John Fox, Edward Jackson, and John W. Van Hook desired to establish Baltimore's first middle-class suburban neighborhood. Named "Homestead" in honor of the old family estate, the subdivision was one-and-three-quarter miles from Baltimore City's courthouse and a quarter-mile north of the city's limits. The plat consisted of over 1000, 16x90 foot lots, fronting 50 foot streets and 20 foot alleys.<sup>6</sup> An advertisement in the 1853-1854 *Matchett's City Directory* stated:

The situation is one of the most beautiful, most healthy, and most convenient of access in the neighborhood of Baltimore, being immediately contiguous to Clifton Park and Darley Hall, the splendid residences of Johns Hopkins and Dr. Tropue on the East; to the estates of the late W, Tiffany, Gibson, Taylor, and Tine on the North; to Edward Patterson's and Frisby's on the South, and Huntingdon Village on the West.

A number of Cottages and Country Seats have already been erected, and many other improvements are in contemplation. A beautiful Protestant Episcopal Church is now erected, to which a School House is attached. The proprietors have also in contemplation, by presiding sites for churches, the accommodation of other religious denominations, and making sure other conveniences as a respectable suburban population may require.<sup>7</sup>

The proximity to grand county estates lent weight to promoting the location's rural characteristics, open spaces, ambiance, and prestige. Particularly, since Gorsuch and his syndicate laid the village out in an urban grid-like pattern.

Homestead Village struggled to grow due to poor financial planning and a lack of reliable transportation to Baltimore City.<sup>8</sup> An omnibus (urban stage coach), however, offered limited access to the neighborhood.<sup>9</sup> In

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<sup>4</sup> J.H.P., 327.

<sup>5</sup> J.H.P., "The Gorsuch and Lovelace Families," *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 26 no. 4 (October 1918): 424.

<sup>6</sup> Baltimore County Circuit Court, "Plan of the Buildings Lots of the Homestead," Plat Book JWS 2, Folio 88, Maryland State Archives, MSA C2136, <http://www.plato.mdarchives.state.md.us> (accessed June 12, 2012); Baltimore City Circuit Court, "Plan of the Building Lots of the Homestead," Plat Book RHB, Folio 2412, Maryland State Archives, MSA 2828-5046, <http://www.plato.mdarchives.state.md.us> (accessed June 12, 2012).

<sup>7</sup> Richard J. Matchett, *Matchett's Baltimore Director for 1853-4* (Baltimore: Richard J. Matchett, 1853), 18-19.

<sup>8</sup> William Stump, "Man in the Street: Gorsuch," *The Baltimore Sun*, May 27, 1951, <http://www.proquest.com>.

<sup>9</sup> *The Baltimore Sun*, "Classified Advertisement," March 29, 1854, <http://www.proquest.com>.

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1870, the Baltimore and the Halls Spring Passenger Railway was incorporated and constructed a horse-drawn line "from the City Hall and North street, via Fayette, Aisquith and Madison streets and Central avenue to Harford road, where connection was made with another car for Homestead and Halls Springs."<sup>10</sup> The continued development of the streetcar coupled with affordable and improved transportation increased the desirability of the village.<sup>11</sup> Homestead remained the only suburban community laid out in northeast Baltimore in the nineteenth century.<sup>12</sup>

As early as 1799, Baltimore City had outlawed wood-frame dwellings within city limits to minimize the devastation of potential fires. Homestead, however, was located in Baltimore County's more rural setting that was not annexed by Baltimore City until 1888.<sup>13</sup> As a result, while brick construction dominated Baltimore City's landscape, wood-frame dwellings were a viable possibility within the suburban community. Additionally, frame buildings with wood siding characterized cottages and suburban dwellings of the period. Victorian-era architectural influences in the village included Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne styles. Wilson Thompson's 1889 *Plats of the Twenty First and Twenty Second Wards of Baltimore City* documented more wood-frame houses within the northern section of the community than brick.<sup>14</sup> The area contained approximately 62 wood-frame dwellings and 50 masonry dwellings or stores, many set on multiple lots.

The 1888 annexation of Homestead and the surrounding region into Baltimore City altered its land value. The tax structure for land located within the annexation stimulated development and investment leading to a construction boom in the first-quarter of the twentieth century<sup>15</sup>. The neighborhood's desirability was further increased when the city purchased Clifton Park, located directly east of Homestead.<sup>16</sup> As evident on *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps*, in order to maximize profitability, large lot owners and developers filled the

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<sup>10</sup> Clayton Colman Hall, *Baltimore: Its History and Its People* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1912), 548.

<sup>11</sup> For more information, G.M. Hopkins, *City Atlas of Baltimore Maryland and Environs* (Philadelphia: F. Bourquin, 1876), 64, <http://www.baltimorecityhistory.net>; Winfield W. Thompson, C.E., *Plats of the Twenty First and Twenty Second Wards of Baltimore City*, <http://www.baltimorecityhistory.net>; John Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day* (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881), 890.

<sup>12</sup> Eric L. Holcomb, *The City as Suburb: A History of Northeast Baltimore Since 1660* (Chicago: The Center for American Places, 2008), 95.

<sup>13</sup> Department of Public Works, "Historical Growth Map of City of Baltimore," 1977, <http://www.mdhistory.net> (accessed June 12, 2012).

<sup>14</sup> The map's boundaries were Carswell Street to the north, Homewood Street to the west, Gorsuch Street (north side), and Harford Avenue to the east.

<sup>15</sup> For more information regarding the annexation's tax structure, Sherry Olson, *Baltimore: The Building of an American City* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), 219.

<sup>16</sup> Olson, 217.

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neighborhood with brick row houses.<sup>17</sup> Today, the remaining wood-frame dwellings recall early suburbanization efforts on the periphery of Baltimore City and Homestead's built environment prior to its annexation.

### Building History

The property at 1417 Gorsuch Avenue was historically known as 424 Gorsuch Avenue, part of Lots 755-758.<sup>18</sup> Early deeds of the property have yet to be discovered due to a circuit court case dating from 1926. A 1928 deed references the case, Fidelity Building and Savings Association of Baltimore City v. R. Stanley Carswell, et al.<sup>19</sup> Additionally, the dwelling was rented for twenty years and the Carswell family owned multiple lots throughout the city, obscuring the location of the correct records.

Deed research indicates that Robert Stanley Carswell owned the dwelling at 1417 Gorsuch Avenue in the 1920s.<sup>20</sup> Born in Maryland, Carswell was the son of Robert S. and Isabel Carswell, who were immigrants of Canada and England, respectively.<sup>21</sup> The Carswells moved to Homestead prior to the birth of their son in 1869.<sup>22</sup> Robert S. Carswell (the senior) was very successful, founding the Rising Sun Refining Company and later the American Refining Company. The 1870 United States Census listed him as owning his own residence valued at \$6,000, and personal estate estimated at \$2,000.<sup>23</sup> By 1900, the thirty-one-year-old Robert Stanley was still single and living at 423 Gorsuch Avenue (located on the opposite side of the street from 1417 Gorsuch Avenue) with his parents. The following year he married Sarah Wagner, who was the daughter of Civil War Union General Louis Wagner.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> By 1921, the fire limitation code outlawing brick construction still did not include Homestead; however, the prevalence, affordability, and standardization of brick row house construction within the city led to its use within the neighborhood. For more information, City of Baltimore, *Ordinances and Resolutions of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore Passed at the Annual Session, 1920-1921* (Baltimore: Kings Brother City Printer, 1921), 303.

<sup>18</sup> The location is based on lot numbers assigned to the adjacent property at 1425 Gorsuch Avenue. For more information, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form, "Margaret E. and Henry Boarders House," *Maryland Historical Trust*, Inventory No. B-5244.

<sup>19</sup> The deed, however, fails to note the previous chain of title and the court case is not available at the Maryland State Archives. Baltimore City Superior Court, "Morton Y. Bullock (Trustee) to Fidelity Building and Savings Association of Baltimore City," Liber SCL 4996, Folio 264.

<sup>20</sup> Ancestry.com, *1910 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, 2006), Baltimore Ward 09, District 134.

<sup>21</sup> Ancestry.com, *1870 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, 2009), Baltimore District 09.

<sup>22</sup> The 1865-1866 Woods' Baltimore City Directory does not list Robert S. Carswell living in Homestead. He is listed in the 1867-1868 Woods' Baltimore City Directory. For more information, John W. Woods, *Woods' Baltimore City Directory* (Baltimore: John W. Woods, 1865-1866); John W. Woods, *Woods' Baltimore City Directory* (Baltimore: John W. Woods, 1867-1868), 93.

<sup>23</sup> Ancestry.com, *1870 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, 2009), Baltimore District 09.

<sup>24</sup> *Philadelphia Inquirer*, "A Minute's Chat," October, 14, 1901, <http://www.geneologybank.com> (accessed May 21, 2012).

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In all likelihood, but further deed research will determine, Robert S. Carswell (the senior) oversaw construction of the Queen Anne-inspired dwelling at 1417 Gorsuch Avenue for use as rental property, which would provide additional income in a neighborhood that was rapidly growing. R.L. Polk & Company's 1889 city directory is the earliest known reference to the property and provides a potential date of construction. At that time, Charles T. Peirce, a paperhanger, lived at the newly constructed dwelling.<sup>25</sup> The following year's city directory noted Virginia E. Williams and Henry A. Harig occupied the house.<sup>26</sup> In 1891, William A. and Mary E. Wisong moved from what was then 411 Jefferson Street in Homestead to 1417 Gorsuch Avenue. William and Mary, born in 1855 and 1865, respectively, were married in 1886.<sup>27</sup> The 1900 United States Census listed the four Wisong children: Kenneth, Aubrey, Helen, and Carol. In addition, Lena Clark, a thirteen-year-old African American, lived in the dwelling and worked for the family as a servant.<sup>28</sup>

City directories show that after 1907, the Wisongs no longer lived in the rental dwelling. Their departure coincided with the death of Robert S. Carswell (the senior). Robert Stanley Carswell may have inherited the property at this time, relocating the Wisong family in order to occupy the dwelling himself. According to the 1910 United States Census, he was the owner of a drug manufacturing company.<sup>29</sup> Yet, by 1915, Carswell had moved on to become president of Standard Salt Company.<sup>30</sup> The same year, Sarah Wagner Carswell died at the age of thirty-eight; the couple had no children.<sup>31</sup>

In 1920, Carswell resided at the property with Isabelle R. Carswell (mother), Isabelle Carswell (sister), Thomas S. and Roberta Hooper (brother-in-law and sister), Edith Patton (niece), and Rose Schmidt (servant).<sup>32</sup> Thomas Hooper worked as a railroad clerk.<sup>33</sup> By 1923, Carswell's relative Arthur B. Dougall lived at the property as well.<sup>34</sup> During his ownership, Robert Stanley Carswell likely expanded the front porch beyond the east elevation of the main block and the enclosed the second story of the two-story, recessed porch.

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<sup>25</sup> R.L. Polk & Co., *Baltimore City Directory for 1889* (Baltimore: Nichols, Killam, and Maffit, 1889), 901.

<sup>26</sup> R.L. Polk & Co., *Baltimore City Directory for 1890* (Baltimore: Nichols, Killam, and Maffit, 1890), 532.

<sup>27</sup> Ancestry.com, *1900 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, 2004), Baltimore Ward 11, District 139.

<sup>28</sup> Ancestry.com, *1900 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, 2004), Baltimore Ward 11, District 139.

<sup>29</sup> Ancestry.com, *1910 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, 2004), Baltimore Ward 9, District 134.

<sup>30</sup> *The Baltimore Sun*, "Mrs. Carswell Dies on Trip," April 1, 1915, <http://www.proquest.com>.

<sup>31</sup> *The Baltimore Sun*, "Mrs. Carswell Dies on Trip."

<sup>32</sup> Ancestry.com, *1920 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, 2004), Baltimore Ward 9, District 134.

<sup>33</sup> Ancestry.com, *1920 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, 2004), Baltimore Ward 9, District 134.

<sup>34</sup> R.L. Polk & Co., *Baltimore City Directory 1922* (Baltimore: R.L. Polk & Co. of Baltimore, 1922), 621.

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Robert Carswell listed the property for sale in 1924. The advertisement stated, "Frame cottage containing 8 rooms and bath, electricity; good condition; near new city College site. Reasonably priced."<sup>35</sup> The details of the subsequent land transaction and case are not known at this time, but the Baltimore City Circuit Court ordered that the dwelling and lot be transferred from Carswell to Fidelity Building and Savings Association of Baltimore City. Three years later, the *Baltimore Sun* reported the:

Sale of the three-story Colonial type cottage at 1417 Gorsuch avenue, for the Fidelity Building and Savings Association to the Realty Improvement Company, was reported by Charles H. Steffey, Inc., broker. The house contains nine rooms and bath and improves a lot 64 by 80 feet.<sup>36</sup>

The Realty Improvement Company sold the building to R. Sterling and Virginia R. Bugg in 1934. Raymond Sterling Bugg (born 1885) and Virginia R. Bugg (born 1886) were married in 1907.<sup>37</sup> Three years later, the United States Census recorded the couple living in Baltimore City. Bugg worked as a wallpaper salesman and his wife was a stenographer in a furniture store. By 1920, the Buggs had moved to Richmond, Virginia, where Raymond Bugg was employed as a clerk for the federal government.<sup>38</sup> The 1930 United State Census, however, recorded the family returning to Baltimore City with their sons, Sterling, Paul, Raoul, and John. The Buggs owned the dwelling at 1700 Homestead Street in the Homestead neighborhood. The property was informally valued at \$5,680.<sup>39</sup> In 1934, the Buggs purchased and moved to the property at 1417 Gorsuch Avenue, which was valued at \$4,650 in 1940.<sup>40</sup> At that time, Raymond Bugg owned a wallpaper and home improvement business.<sup>41</sup> Paul, Raoul, and Donald lived at the dwelling with their parents; Paul and Raoul assisted their father in the family business.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> *The Baltimore Sun*, "Classified Advertisement," September 14, 1924, <http://www.proquest.com>.

<sup>36</sup> *The Baltimore Sun*, "REAL ESTATE DEALS AND BUILDING NEWS: Shell Eastern Petroleum Concern Acquires Filling Stations," March 27, 1930, <http://www.proquest.com>.

<sup>37</sup> Ancestry.com, *1930 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, 2004), Baltimore Ward 9, District 562.

<sup>38</sup> Ancestry.com, *1920 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, 2010), Jefferson Ward, Precinct 5, District 134.

<sup>39</sup> Ancestry.com, *1930 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, 2004), Baltimore Ward 9, District 562.

<sup>40</sup> Ancestry.com, *1940 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, 2012), Baltimore Ward 9, District 211.

<sup>41</sup> Ancestry.com, *1940 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, 2012), Baltimore Ward 9, District 211; Ancestry.com, *U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, 2010), Maryland Headquarters, M1939, Roll 8.

<sup>42</sup> Ancestry.com, *1940 United States Federal Census* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, 2012), Baltimore Ward 9, District 211.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Robert S. Carswell House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 7

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On October 9, 1957, Raymond Bugg died.<sup>43</sup> Shortly thereafter, Virginia Bugg offered the property for sale. Classified ads ran in the *Baltimore Sun* between 1959 and 1962. The 1959 advertisement stated, "A large cottage easily converted into 2 private apartments. New heating plant. Lovely shade trees & shrubs on a well kept lot. Definitely priced to sell."<sup>44</sup> A subsequent announcing described the dwelling as a, "Cottage on lot 64 x 90. Suitable for large family. 3 large rooms & bath. 1<sup>st</sup> flor. [sic] 4 rms. & bath, 2<sup>nd</sup> flor. \$6,500 plus G.R. [grand room], DR [dining room]."<sup>45</sup> Russell A. and Adele C. Hershberger purchased the property in 1962.<sup>46</sup> The Hershbergers retained ownership for almost forty years prior to selling it to Stephanie D. Moyd in 1991.<sup>47</sup> Either the Hershbergers or Moyd enclosed the first story of the recessed porch, at which time the structure was reclad. Stephanie Moyd is the current owner and occupant of the dwelling.

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<sup>43</sup> *The Baltimore Sun*, "Deaths: Raymond Sterling Bugg," October 10, 1957, <http://www.proquest.com>.

<sup>44</sup> *The Baltimore Sun*, "Classified Advertisement," October 25, 1959, <http://www.proquest.com>.

<sup>45</sup> *The Baltimore Sun*, "Classified Advertisement," January 7, 1962, <http://www.proquest.com>.

<sup>46</sup> Baltimore City Superior Court, "Virginia R. Bugg to Russell A. Hershberger and Adele C. Hershberger," Liber JFC 1298, Folio 364, <http://www.mdlandrec.net> (accessed June 12, 2012).

<sup>47</sup> Baltimore City Circuit Court, "Adele C. Hershberger to Stephanie D Moyd," Liber SEB 2091, Folio 174, <http://www.mdlandrec.net> (accessed June 12, 2012).

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. B-5247

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Baltimore City Archives and Enoch Pratt Library Map Collections.

Baltimore City Directories.

*The Baltimore Sun.*

Holcomb, Eric. *The City as a Suburb: A Prehistory of Northeast Baltimore Since 1660*. Chicago: The Center for American Places at Columbia College Chicago, 2008.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 0.284  
Acreage of historical setting 0.284  
Quadrangle name Baltimore East

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The dwelling at 1417 Gorsuch Avenue, historically known as 424 Gorsuch Avenue, is sited mid-block between Homewood and Kirk Avenues. The building is bound to the north by Gorsuch Avenue, residential dwellings to the east and west, and an alley to the south. It is located in Ward 09, Section 16, Block 4111, Lot 015 of Baltimore City. The building has been associated with this lot since its construction sometime between 1876 and 1889.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Robyn Chrabasz, Historic Preservation Officer		
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc. for Baltimore City DHCD	date	June 12, 2012
street & number	417 E. Fayette Street, Suite 301	telephone	443-984-1871
city or town	Baltimore	state	MD

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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.: B-5247

Robert S. Carswell House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

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CHAIN OF TITLE  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LAND RECORDS

April 28, 1926	Fidelity Building and Savings Association of Baltimore City v. R. Stanley Carswell, et al. Circuit Court of Baltimore City
November 1, 1927	Morton Y. Bullock (Trustee) to Fidelity Building and Savings Association of Baltimore City.
October 1, 1928	Morton Y. Bullock (Trustee) to Fidelity Building and Savings Association of Baltimore City. Land Records of Baltimore City Liber SCL 4966, Folio 264
May 27, 1930	The Fidelity Building and Savings Association of Baltimore City to The Realty Improvement Company. Land Records of Baltimore City Liber SCL 5123, Folio 81
May 27, 1930	Lease: The Realty Improvement Company to Daniel F. Ludlow. Land Records of Baltimore City Liber SCL 5123, Folio 82
May 27, 1930	The Realty Improvement Company to Charles H. Steffey Incorporated. Land Records of Baltimore City Liber SCL 5123, Folio 83
May 27, 1930	Daniel F. Ludlow to The Realty Improvement Company Superior Court Liber SCL 5123, Folio 84
February 20, 1934	The Realty Improvement Company to R. Sterling and Virginia R. Bugg Superior Court Liber SCL 5398, Folio 372
June 14, 1962	Virginia R. Bugg to Russell A. and Adele C. Hershberger Superior Court Liber JFC 1298, Folio 364

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# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

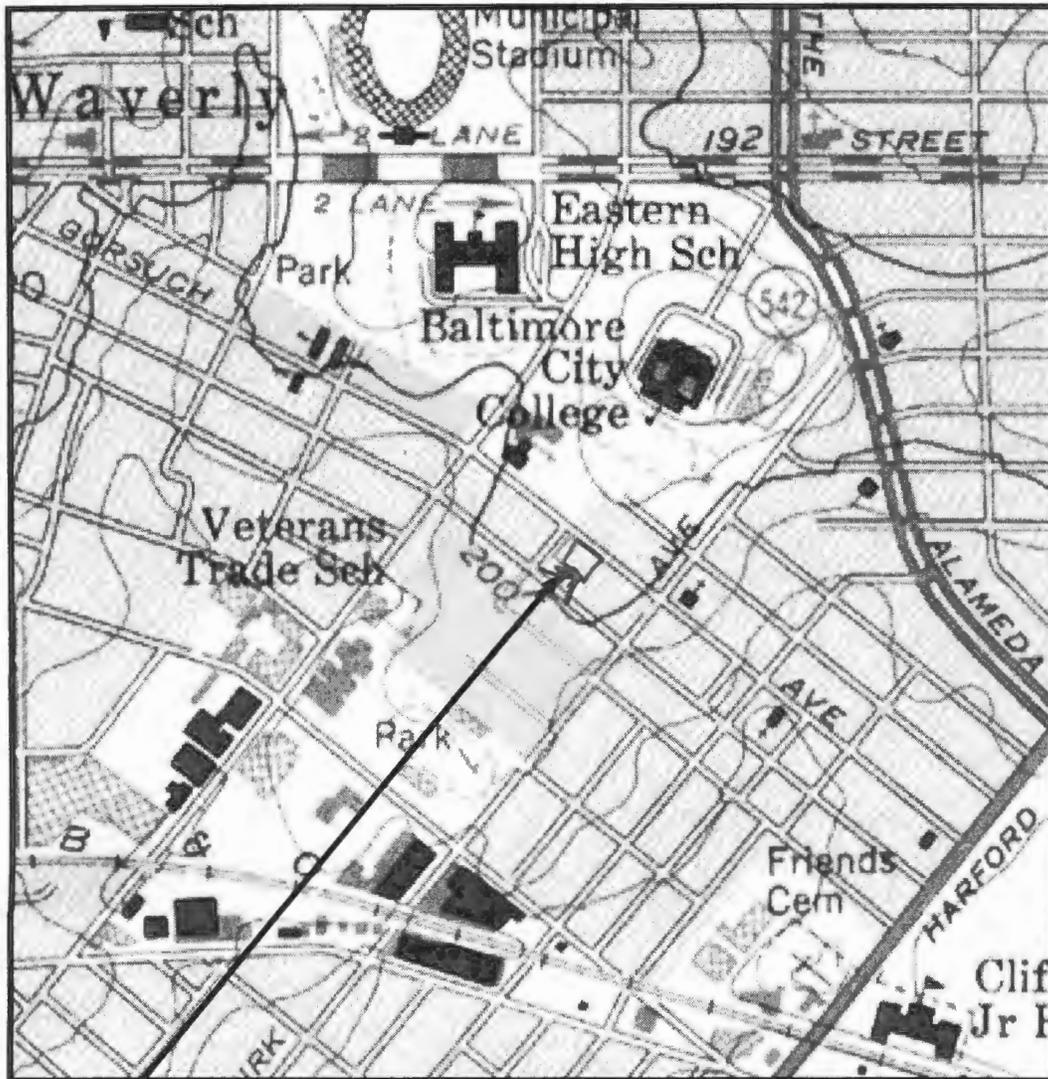
Inventory No.: B-5247

Robert S. Carswell House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 9 Page 2

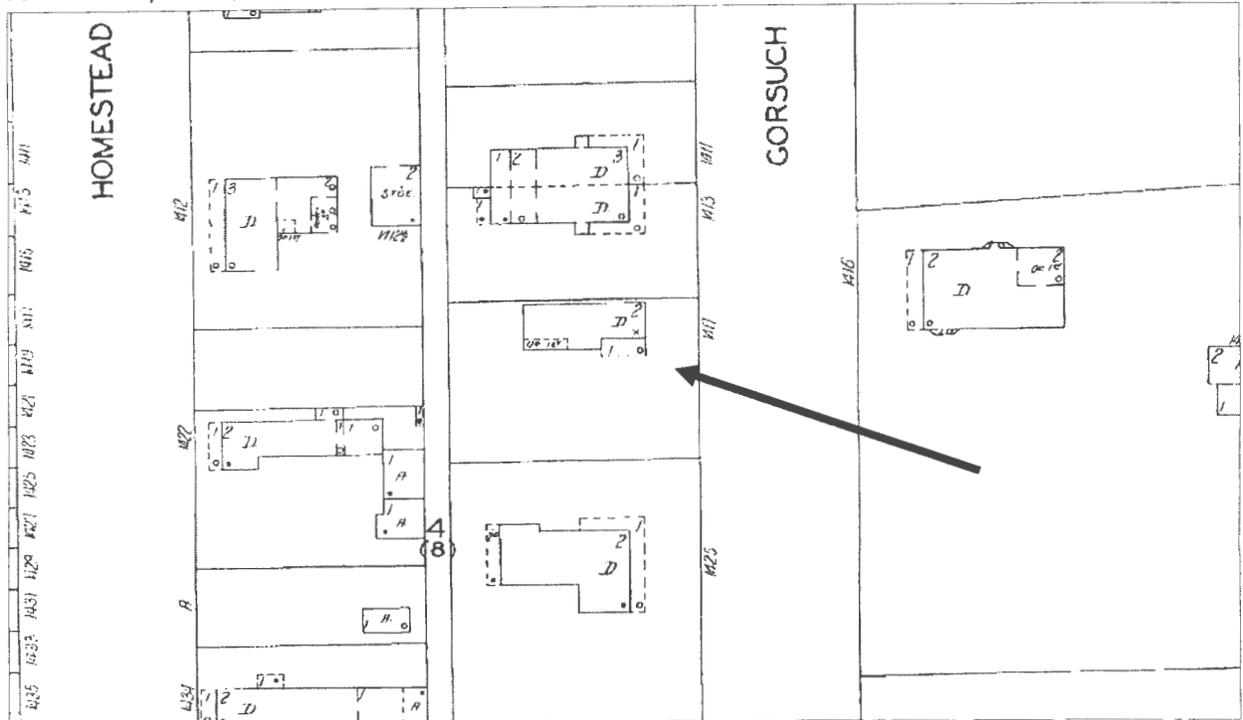
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January 11, 1979	Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company and Thomas H. Hedrick, Personal Representatives and Trustee under Will of John E. Esome to Russell A. and Adele C. Hershberger Superior Court Liber WA 3733, Folio 505
July 11, 1991	Adele C. Hershberger to Stephanie D Moyd Circuit Court Liber SEB 2091, Folio 174

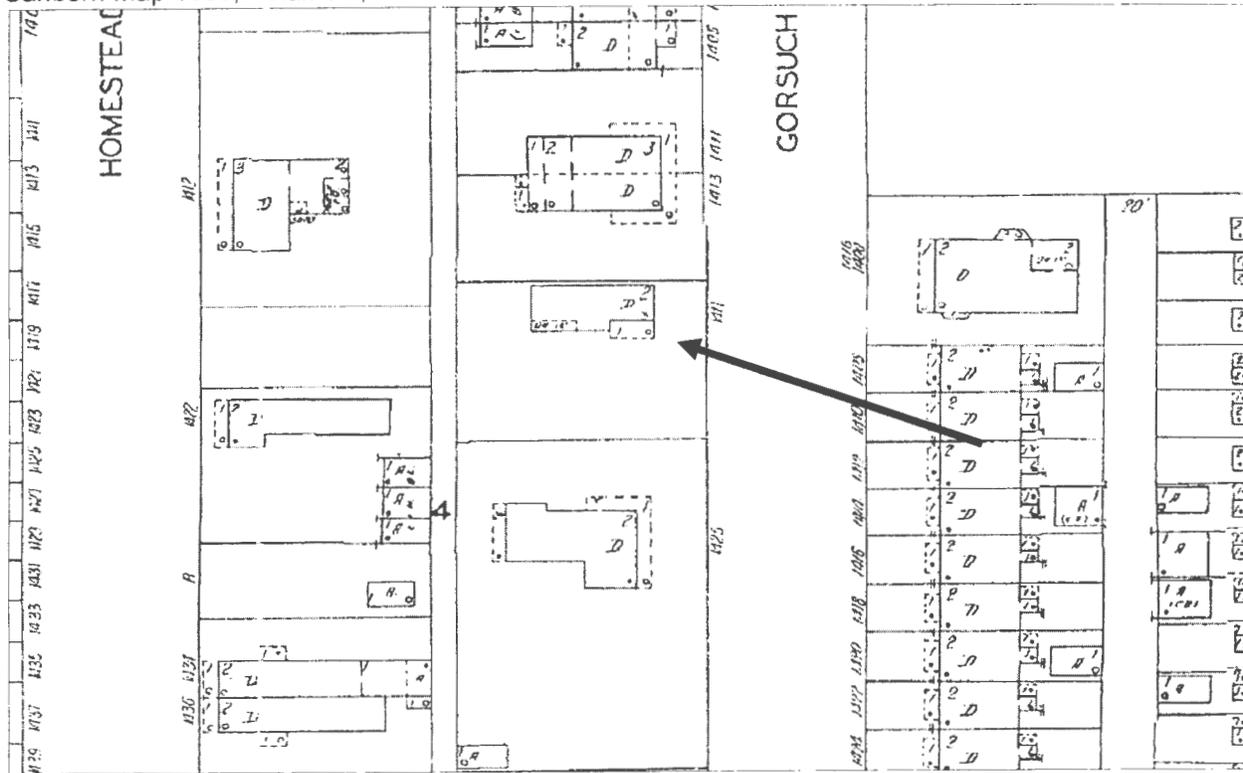


**1417 Gorsuch Avenue**  
Baltimore, MD 21218-3623  
City of Baltimore  
Baltimore East, USGS Topographic Map, 1953, Revised 1974  
EHT Tracerics, Inc., 2012

B-5247  
Robert S. Carswell House  
1417 Gorsuch Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21218  
Sanborn Map 1928, Volume 7, Sheet 730



Sanborn Map 1953, Volume 7, Sheet 730





Robert S. Carswell House  
 B-5247  
 1417 Gorsuch Avenue  
 Coldstream Homestead Montebello, Baltimore City  
 Map Courtesy of Baltimore City GIS  
 Prepared by EHT Tracerics, 2012



concrete alley

wood

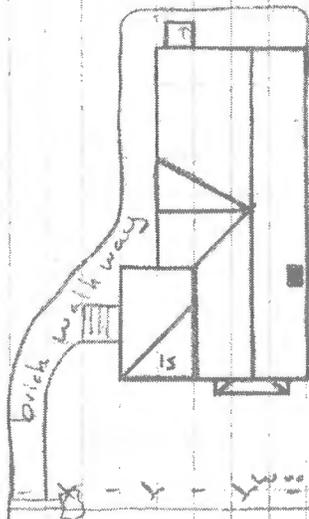
concrete parking pad

above ground pool

shed

shed

shed



concrete sidewalk

Gorsuch Avenue



Date 5/8/2012

Not to Scale

I.D. # B-5247

Name/Address 1417 Gorsuch Avenue

**Robert S. Carswell House  
B-5247**

Photographer: EHT Tracerics

Date: May 10, 2012

1.	1417 Gorsuch Avenue	B-5247_2012-05-10_01.tif	Façade, looking west
2.	1417 Gorsuch Avenue	B-5247_2012-05-10_02.tif	West elevation, looking south
3.	1417 Gorsuch Avenue	B-5247_2012-05-10_03.tif	South elevation, looking northeast
4.	1417 Gorsuch Avenue	B-5247_2012-05-10_04.tif	East elevation, looking northwest
5.	1417 Gorsuch Avenue	B-5247_2012-05-10_05.tif	Pool and shed, looking south



B-5247

ROBERTS. CARSWELL HOUSE

1417 GORSUCH AVENUE

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

EHT TRACERIES

5/2012

MDSHPO

FACADE, LOOKING WEST

#1 OF 7



B-5247

ROBERT S. CARSWELL HOUSE

1417 GORSUCH AVENUE

BALTIMORE, CITY, MD

EHT TRACERIES

5/2012

MDSHPO

FACADE, LOOKING WEST

\*2 OF 7



B-5247

ROBERT S. CARSWELL HOUSE

1417 GORSUCH AVENUE

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

EHT TRACERIES

6/2012

MDSHPO

WEST ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH

\*3 OF 7



B-5247

ROBERT S. CARSWELL HOUSE

1417 GORSUCH AVENUE

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

EHT TRACEMES

5/2012

MDSHP0

SOUTH ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTHEAST

\*4 OF 7



B-5247

ROBERT S. CARSWELL HOUSE

1417 GORSUCH AVENUE

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

EHT TRACEMES

5/2012

MDSHPD

EAST ELEVATION, LOOKING NW

\* 5 OF 7



B-5247

ROBERT S. CARSWELL HOUSE

1417 GORSUCH AVENUE

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

EHT TRACEMES

5/2012

MDSHPO

POOL & SHED, LOOKING SOUTH

\*WOF7



B-5241

ROBERT S. CARSWELL HOUSE

1417 GORSUCH AVENUE

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

EHT TRACERIES

5/2012

MDSHPO

SHED, LOOKING WEST

\*7 OF 7