

## J. H. SCHARF PROPERTY

It is believed that part of this building was built in the third quarter of the 19th century but was then altered early in this century to form its present L-shape. The structure has been further altered for commercial use in modern times; however, the frame and clapboard exterior still exhibits certain Victorian qualities. Among these are a swell front and gingerbread in the west gable.

Along with several of its neighbors, this building plays a great role in maintaining Delaware Avenue as one of the last streets in the heart of Towson with a 19th century appearance.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC J. H. Scharf Property

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 408 Delaware Avenue

CITY, TOWN Towson CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Towson Blue Print & Engineering Supply Co., Telephone #: 823-7922

STREET & NUMBER Inc.

408 Delaware Ave.

CITY, TOWN Towson STATE, zip code Maryland 21204

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. New Courts Building

STREET & NUMBER

Liber #: See Attachment  
Folio #:

CITY, TOWN Towson STATE Maryland 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE See Note
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>Spring, 1978</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The 1877 Hopkins atlas shows two long rectangular buildings on the parcel of ground adjoining the Parsonage on the south, and they are listed as belonging to J. H. Scharf. The same information appears on Bromley's atlas of 1898 where they are color-coded for frame construction. In Bromley's 1915 atlas, however, the parcel has been subdivided and the present L-shaped building appears next to the Parsonage.

The present structure has been modified in modern times by an addition which extends it to the east almost 20 feet and its large porch was enclosed achieving greater interior space. The original structure measured 43 feet on its north side and 27 feet on its east side. The indentation of the L-shape contained the porch which was 22 feet long and . . . feet wide.

The house is a full two stories and is of frame construction resting on a stone foundation. The cellar has been altered to be a full basement under the entire building; however, the original appears to have a half cellar that had 6-foot stone walls but was only 10 x 12 feet in length and width. It appears to have been entered by an exterior entrance on the east side.

The commercial use to which the building has been put in modern times has necessitated many alterations; however, the exterior still contains much evidence of the original Victorian appearance. The west gable still contains gingerbread scrollwork in the eaves and the attic is lighted by an arched window. The Victorian concern for light is in evidence by the swell-front or two-story bay window that once lighted the south rooms, in the east wing. It is bisected by the roof of the porch. These windows are closed in today and the other windows have been altered, but it is supposed that they may have been the tall 2/2 variety common to the period.

Examination of the interior revealed little except for vertically-sawn joists and rafters, and the use of cut nails. Cut nails were also observed in the clapboards on the exterior of the south facade.

Note: It is possible that the southernmost of the two longitudinal buildings which appear in the 1877 Atlas was moved to the adjacent lot and attached to its neighbor at a 90° angle.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attachment

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

WAYNE L. NIELD, II  
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## TITLE SEARCH for J. H. SCHARF HOUSE

Liber 4672, Folio 110 September 12, 1966  
Grantor: Bernold Realty Co., Inc.  
Grantee: Towson Blue Print and Engineering Supply Co., Inc.

"Beginning...east side of Delaware Ave. 75' northerly from the northeast corner or intersection of Delaware Ave. and Chesapeake Ave....East 143.6'...West 55'...West 143.6'...beginning...known as # 406-408 Delaware Ave."

Liber 4568, Folio 49 January 5, 1966  
Grantor: John L Frank & wife  
Grantee: Bernold Realty Co., Inc.

Liber 2726, Folio 287 June 28, 1955  
Grantor: H. Courtenay, Trustee of estate of Daniel Lee  
Grantee: James C. L. Anderson et. al.

## CHAIN A

Liber 1020, Folio 315 December 22, 1937  
Grantor: Elder J. Frank  
Grantee: John Frank

"Beginning...25' Northerly...East along Delaware Ave. 30'... East 143.6'...West 30'...West 30'...143.6'...beginning."

Liber 984, Folio 380  
Grantor: William W. Frank, widower  
Grantee: Elder J. Frank

## CHAIN B

Liber 659, Folio 300 August 31, 1928  
Grantor: Elder J. Frank  
Grantee: Isabell M. Frank

"Beginning...75' northerly...East along eastside Delaware Ave. 25'... East 143.6'...West 25'...West 143.6'...beginning."

CHAIN A

Liber 510, Folio 314 May 17, 1919  
Grantor: Robert S. Francis et. al.  
Grantee: William W. Frank

Richard Francis joins Robert to execute this deed to apportion the original rent on the whole lot because a conflict existed in the first line of the description in deed dated April 7, 1908 WPC 325/549.

Olive P. Hackell to Robert & Marie Francis.

The agreement is that the original rent of \$33. per year on the whole lot be apportioned as follows Lot being now conveyed by Robert Francis to William Frank be \$18. and the lot about to be conveyed by Richard Francis to Elder Frank be \$15.

Liber 325, Folio 549 April 7, 1908  
Grantor: Richard C. Francis  
Grantee: Robert S. Francis

Liber 249, Folio 15 November 26, 1900  
Grantor: John M. Scharf  
Grantee: Richard C. Francis

subject to \$33 rent/year and \$1,200 mortgage to William S. Keech, Trustee

Liber 78, Folio 460 December 28, 1872  
Grantor: Thomas Burns et. al.  
Grantee: John M. Scharf

Thomas & Benjamin Burns agreed to sell the lot to Francis Corkran who since agreed to sell it to John Scharf and they all bargained and agreed to sell it to Scharf same as lot in deed EHA 67/465 August 25, 1870

Liber 74, Folio 104 August 5, 1871  
Grantor: Edward Burns  
Grantee: Thomas Burns et. al.

Transfer title to Thomas and Benjamin Burns

Liber 67, Folio 465 August 25, 1870  
Grantor: Thomas & Emily Baldwin  
Grantee: Thomas Burns et. al.

Yearly rent \$33., 99 year term.

Scharff Family

1870 Census Data

Dwelling house #323, family #322

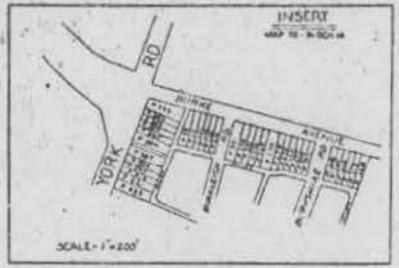
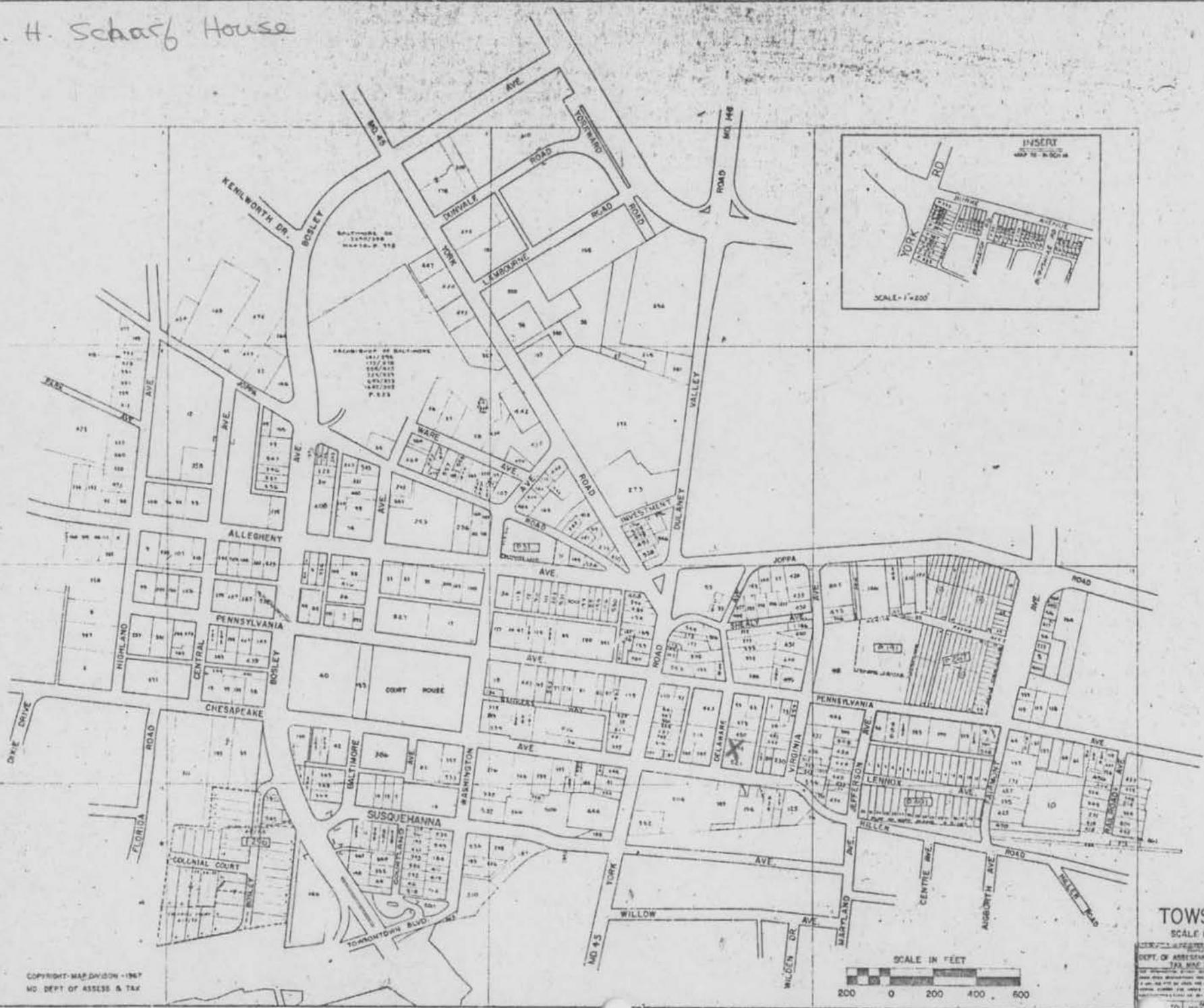
<u>Name of everyone living in house</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Real Estate</u>	<u>Personal Estate</u>	<u>Other</u>
Scharff, John H.	55	M	W	farmer			male citizen in U.S. over 21
Margaret	49	F	W	keeping house			
Mary E.	24	F	W	at home			
John H.	23	M	W	farmer			male citizen of U.S. over 21
Thomas P.	4	M	W				
Wilson, Eliza	35	F	B	domestic servant.			
Alfred	10	M	B	domestic servant.			
Lucy	2	F	B				
Henry, Francis	11	M	W				

John H. Scharff -- farmer pg. 479 in The State Gazette and Merchants and Farmers Directory for Md. and District of Columbia, published by Sadler, Drysdale and Purnell in Balt. in 1871.

The Scharff Family resided at 406-408 Delaware Ave. according to the map of Towsontown in Hopkins atlas of 1877

J. H. Scharf House

BA-1472



COPYRIGHT - MAP DIVISION - 1967  
MD. DEPT. OF ASSESS & TAX



**TOWSON**  
SCALE 1" = 200'

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION  
TAX MAP DIVISION

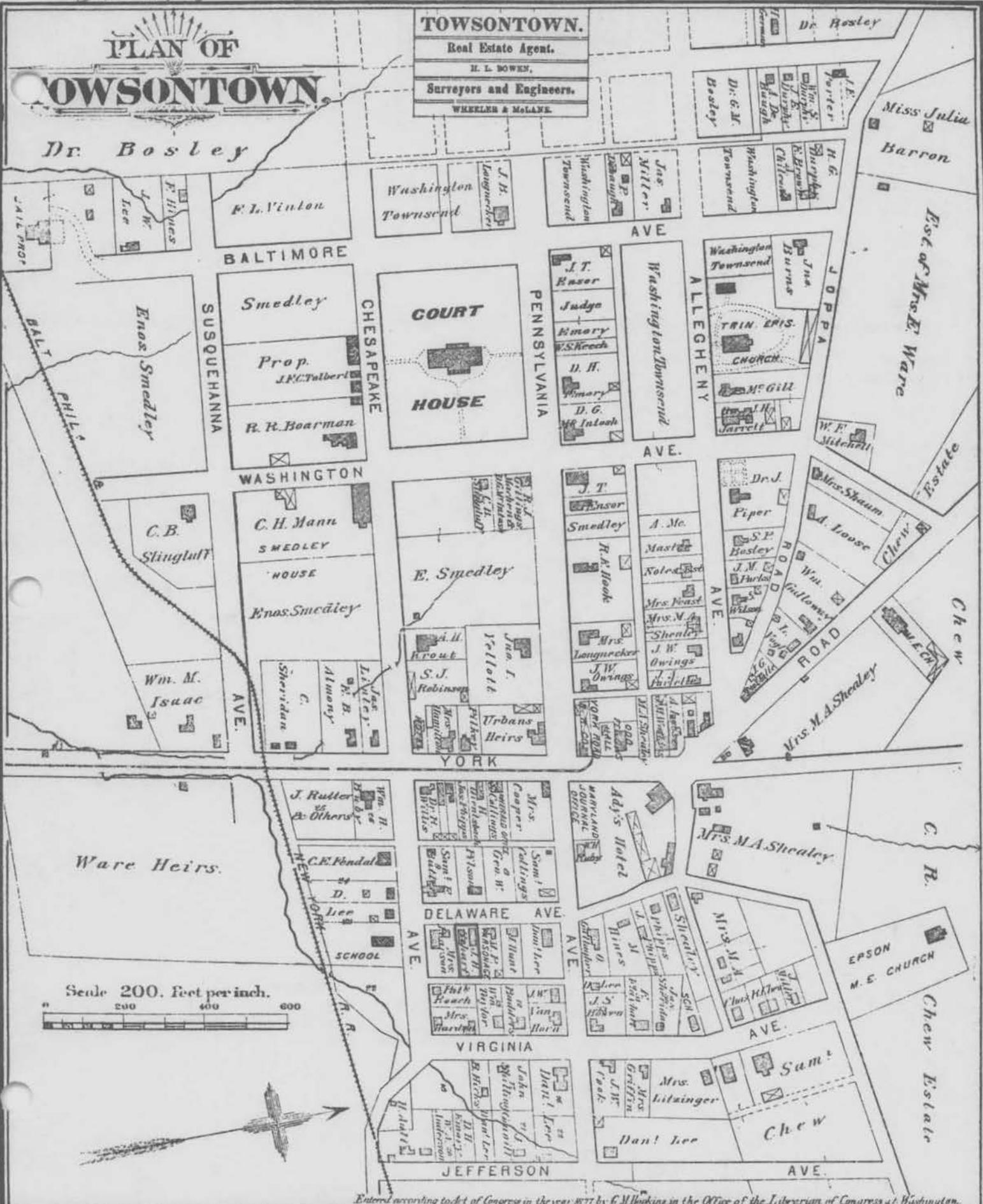
NOT TO SCALE

MAP NO. 70A

# PLAN OF TOWSONTOWN.

**TOWSONTOWN.**  
Real Estate Agent.  
H. L. BOWEN,  
Surveyors and Engineers.  
WHEELER & MOLAND.

Dr. Bosley





BA-1472

J. H. SCHARF

S.W. CORNER

W. NIELD

SPR. 78



BA-1472

J.H. SCHARF  
E.

W. Nield  
Sep-78