

## THOMAS WHITTLE HOUSE

The Thomas Whittle house is among Towson's three oldest buildings, being one of those few known to have been constructed prior to 1850. It is a one-and-one-half story stone building resting on a high basement that contained the kitchen. A 19th century newspaper article mentions Whittle as the builder and it is curious to see the physical features which this house shared with its now demolished neighbor, the Towson Hotel.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Thomas Whittle House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 510 Delaware Avenue

CITY, TOWN Towson VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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 checked="" 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 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 John K. Pulsifer & Co., Inc. Telephone #: 301-661-8000

STREET & NUMBER 100 Shealy Avenue

CITY, TOWN Towson VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland, 21204

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 853  
Folio #: 33

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Towson STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED
- DATE Spring, 1978

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

The house is L-shaped with the westward facing original stone section comprising the main part. It is laterally oriented toward the rectangular plot toward the road. It is built close to the road with the rest of the property stretching out behind it. The house is one and one-half stories on a high basement, with what appears to be two interior end chimneys on the north and south ends of the stone portion. Actually, the northern chimney does not exist on the interior and appears to be decorative in function. The front (west) facade is three bays wide and has a wooden porch which is an alteration. This portion of the house is one bay deep with a small door on the south side. The stone has been stuccoed over. It originally was a greyish stone which many of the buildings in the area are made of.

Attached to the southeast side of the stone section is a late 19th or early 20th century frame addition which is two stories high but actually not quite as tall as the stone section. It is two bays long and one bay wide. The windows on either side are irregular in size and number. Those on the north side, from east to west, on the top level are six-over-six sash, two-over-two casement, six-over-six sash, six-over-six sash, and on the lower level two-over-two sash and one-over-one sash. There is a small portion with a back door attached to the east side of this section. A hipped roof of split wooden shingles covers the entire house. In the yard there is a 20th century garage and a tool shed.

The original stone portion of the house contains one room downstairs and two rooms and a hall upstairs. The upstairs rooms have trapezoidal ceilings created by the hipped roof and half-story walls. The two-over-two casement windows are 26" high with wooden sills that are 14" deep and taper from 36" to 29" wide. The interior chimney on the south end protrudes into the room 22" by 40" north-south and east-west respectively, with a visible shoulder. This is also true in the downstairs room. The doors are late 19th century batten doors with 1 3/4" tongue-and-groove. The door mouldings are plain with a bead.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (See Supplemental Sheet #1**

**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 checked="" 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	Thomas Whittle
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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Thomas Whittle house is among Towson's three oldest buildings, being one of those few known to have been constructed prior to 1850. It is a one-and-a-half story stone building resting on a high basement that contained the kitchen. A 19th century newspaper article mentions Whittle as the builder and it is curious to see the physical features which this house shared with its now-demolished neighbor, the Towson Hotel.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Baltimore County Land Records

See also: Bibliography for Towson Architecture

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Beginning at a stone on the east side of Hillen Road (Delaware Avenue)) said to be the boundary of "James Meadow" running south 3° east 49' 6" then south 88° east 210' to the corner between two lots occupied by J. Sheridan and E. Flayhart then north 11° east about 70' to Shealy's line and along this line to the beginning.

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Susan M. Day

WAYNE L. NIELD, II  
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

ORGANIZATION Goucher College

DATE 3/20/78

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE 301-296-6565

CITY OR TOWN Towson

STATE Maryland 21204

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

An article appearing in the Journal in 1885 is entitled "A Schoolboy's Remembrance of Towson Nearly Half a Century Ago" was authored by Thomas H. Taylor. Taylor admits the possibility of faulty memory in the closing paragraph of his article but appears to be reasonably accurate in the information that he provides about the more than thirty-five buildings he cites. Their locations, builders and occupants and dates are supported by evidence in public records. The author refers to people and places that are contemporary (c. 1885) as well as those from "nearly half a century" before (c. late 1830's).

The Towson Bicentennial... publication is probably correct in stating that this building was constructed before 1840. The Taylor article refers to the 1853 map of Towson (see attachment) drawn by Mr. Zur Horst that shows proposed courthouse sites (paragraph 16). That map shows Hillen Rd. as a main route into Towson from the Southeast and among the very few buildings appearing are three on the east side of Hillen a short distance South of Joppa. There is a "schoolhouse", "T. Whittle's", and the unidentified structure. T. Whittle's is just South of the school and the unidentified structure just South of it. All three buildings are in a line with the road, however, Whittle's is set back farther than the other two.

In the 1880's Taylor recollects that in traveling into Towson on the Hillen Road there were several buildings. Going South to North he mentions a "hip-roofed house" North of Tobias Linzeys' with the next being a "stone one, built and occupied by Thomas Whittle" with "the next and adjoining" being "the old log school." No others are listed before the intersection of Joppa and Hillen and Joshua Paillette is stated to have operated a blacksmith shop on the northwest corner in front of or South of Epsom Chapel. Taylor mentions that the stone house owned by Whittle was later occupied by Alfred Phipps. Liber , folio of the Baltimore County Land Records shows this transaction involving this property in 18 . It seems certain then that this building is that shown on the 1853 Zur Horst map as that of "T. Whittle." T. Whittle's house also appears on the map of 1850. It is therefore interesting to read the rest of Taylor's paragraph in which he says that Thomas Whittle built the house and that he was a noted builder of fences (presumably of stone) who was in great demand. Taylor relates that Whittle enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War and "the last heard of him was at the battle of Gettysburg, and it is supposed that he is sleeping in a grave marked "Unknown."

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INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

Supplemental Sheet      Thomas Whittle House      Item Number 7, Page 1  
                                 Baltimore County  
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The Thomas Whittle House at 510 Delaware Avenue is unusual in two respects. It appears to be one of the oldest houses in Towson and is composed of two parts, an original stone part and a newer late 19th century frame addition. It is cited in the Bromley 1898 plan of Towson as having there two constructions. On this map it is shown to be one of two houses on adjacent lots belonging to the Phipps family. The house is L-shaped with the westward facing stone section comprising the main part. It is laterally oriented toward the rectangular plot of land.

The house is on the east side of Delaware Avenue and faces west toward the road. It is built close to the road with the rest of the property stretching out behind it. The house is one and one-half stories on a high basement with what appears to be two interior end chimneys on the north and south ends of the stone portion. Actually, the northern chimney does not exist on the interior and appears to be decorative in function. The front (west) facade is three bays wide and one bay deep with a small door on the south end. The stone has been stuccoed over. It originally was a greyish stone which many of the buildings in the area are built of. Stone architecture has played an important rôle in Towson.

Attached to the southeast side of the stone section is the late 19th century frame addition which is two stories high but actually not quite as tall as the stone section. It is two bays long and one bay wide. The windows on either side are irregular in size and number. For example, on the north side from east to west there are, on the top level, six-over-six sash, two-over-two casement, six-over-six sash, six-over-six sash, and on the lower level, two-over-two sash and one-over-one sash. There is a small portion with a back door attached to the east side of this section. A hipped roof of split wood shingles covers the entire house. In the yard there is a 20th century garage and tool shed.

The original stone portion of the house contains one room downstairs and two rooms and a hall upstairs. The upstairs rooms have trapezoidal ceilings (See Supplemental Sheet #2)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

Supplemental Sheet      Thomas Whittle House  
                                 Baltimore County      Item Number 7, Page 2  
                                 Maryland

created by the hipped roof and the half-story walls. The two-over-two casement windows are 26" high with wooden sills that are 14" deep and taper from 36" to 26" wide. The interior chimney on the south protrudes into the room 22" by 40" north-south and east-west respectively, with a visible shoulder. It is also visible in the downstairs room. The doors are late 19th century batten doors with 1 3/4" tongue-and-groove. The door mouldings are plain with a bead. There are metal box locks and porcelain wood-grain finish doorknobs. The upstairs hall closet is an alteration and conceals an exterior window. The stairs show evidence of alteration and have Victorian closed-string turned balusters and, at the bottom, a turned newel post.

The east wing downstairs consists of a dining room and kitchen. The kitchen ceiling and walls are finished in 1 3/4" tongue-and-groove and there is a flue for<sup>a</sup> wood burning stove. Upstairs there are two bedrooms and a bathroom in which there are porcelain fixtures and an early crow's foot bathtub.

There is a full basement under the stone portion of the house with walls of uncoursed stone covered with plaster. The ceilings are plastered. On the east side there are casement windows. On the west side there are large six-over-six sash windows which are framed and beaded. The sills are 16" deep, 36" wide and 46" high. There is a blocked-in fireplace with a mantel piece about 5' from the ground on the south end. There are stairs on the east side leading to the first floor. These bisect an exterior window and there are lath cut nails under the staircase.

BA-1478

## Title Search - T. Whittle house

510 Delaware Avenue

853/33 Enoch J. Fox to J. William Phipps April 15, 1930  
Beginning at a stone on the east side of Hillen Road (Delaware Avenue) said to be the boundary of " James Meadow " running south 3° east 49' 6" then south 88° east 210' to the corner between lots occupied by James Sheridan and Edward Flayhart then north 11° east about 70' to Shealy's line and along this line to the beginning.

Leased by Payne to Whittle May 1, 1867 53/296

846/186 Amy P. Isaac to Enoch J. Fox March 22, 1930  
The second of two lots

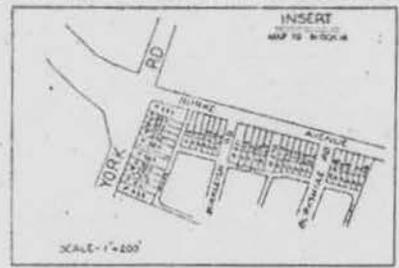
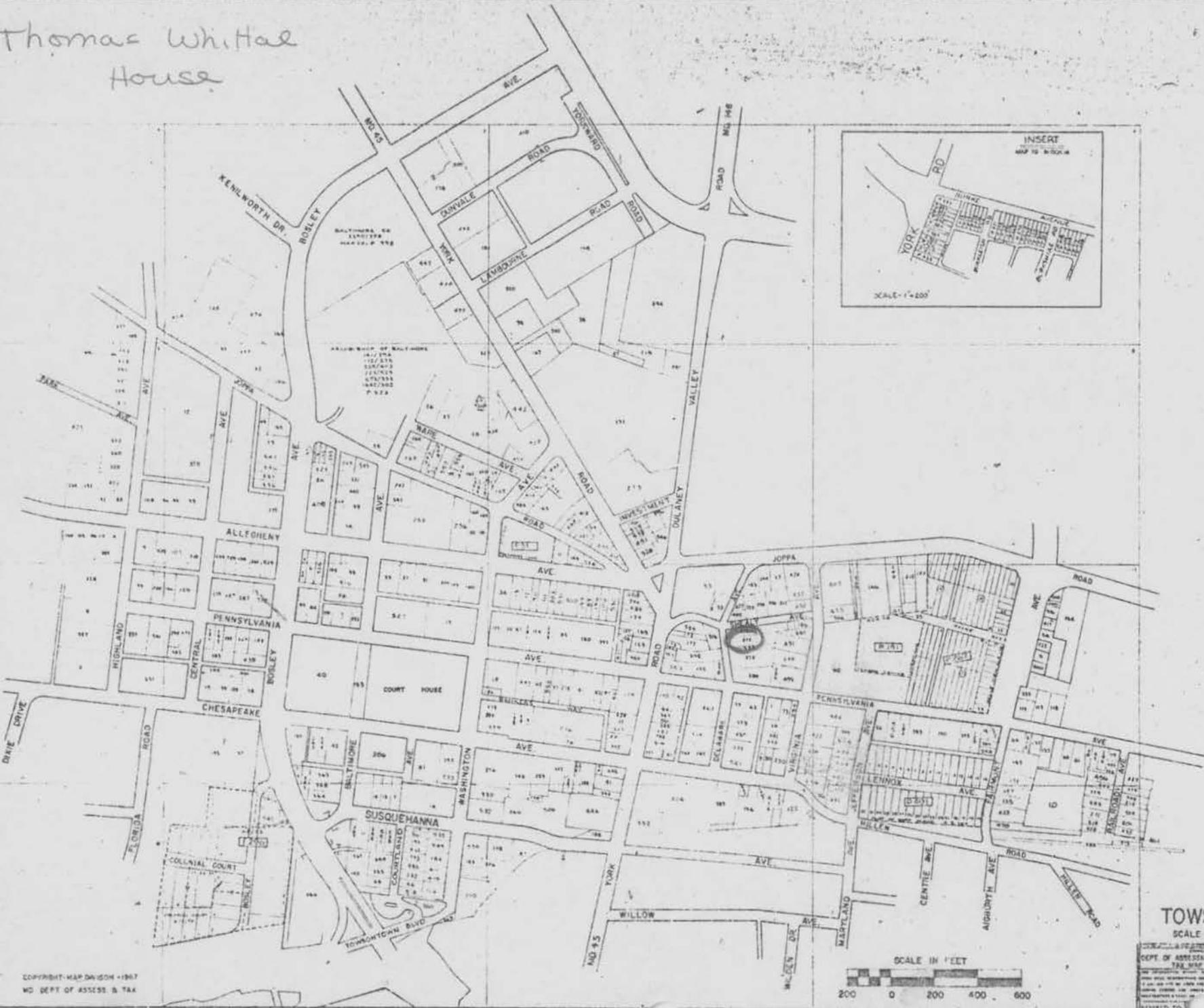
137/562 Nelson Cooper to Amy P. Isaac Feb. 26, 1884  
The second of two lots

87/344 Boarman and Mackintosh to Nelson Cooper  
June 14, 1874  
Equity case, John Payne complainant. Third of three lots.

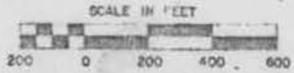
53/296 Lease: Payne to Whittle May 11, 1869  
Leased for 99 years by Benjamin N. Payne to Sarah Whittle, wife of Thomas Whittle. Being part of the same lot leased by Payne to Mary Flayhart in trust for Sarah Whittle. 4/397 Feb. 26, 1853

Thomas Whittall  
House

BA-1478



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MD DEPT OF ASSESS & TAX



**TOWSON**  
SCALE 1"=200'

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION  
TAL WHEE DIVISION

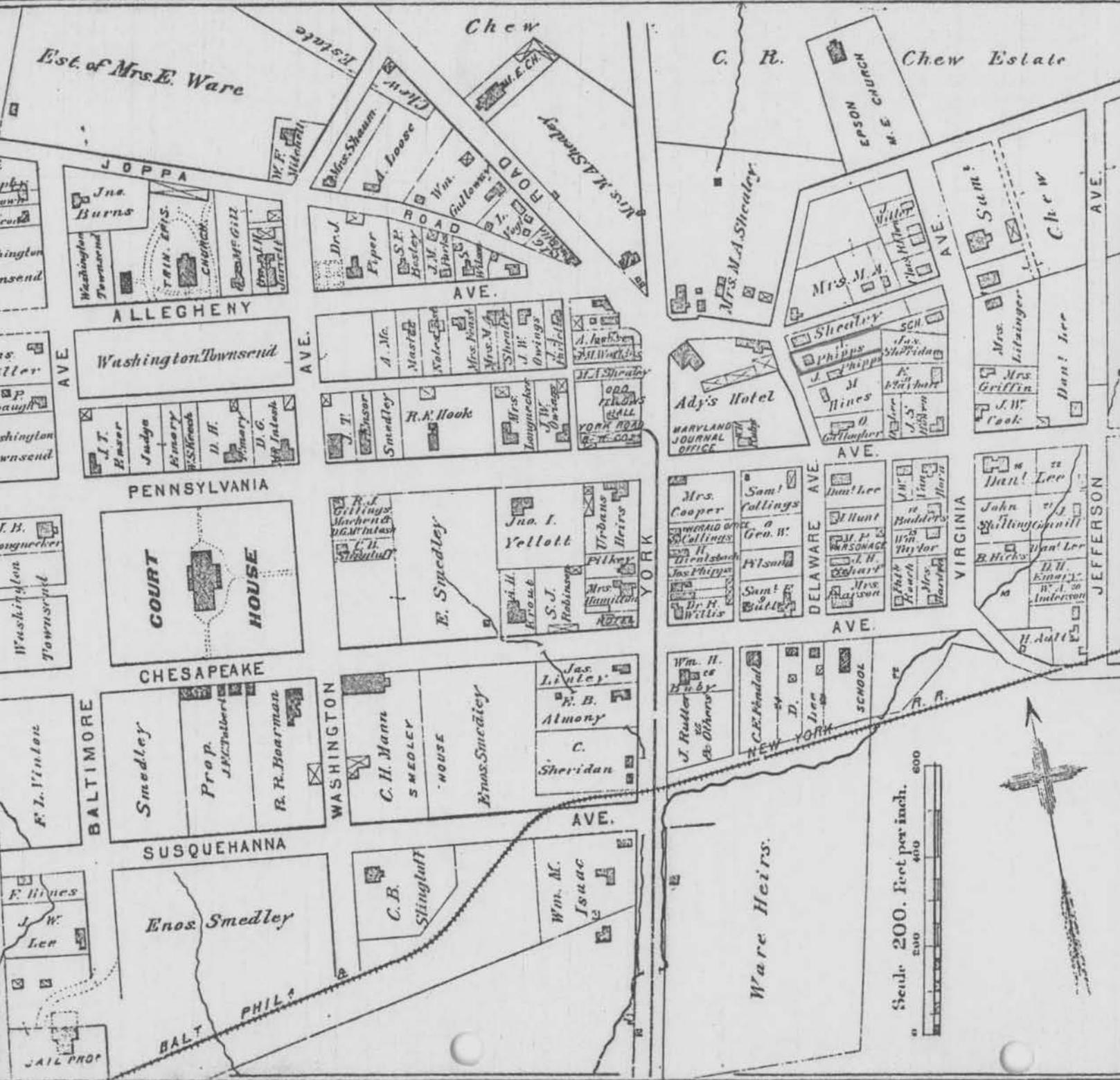
MAP NO.  
70A

BA-1478

# PLAN OF TOWSONTOWN

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

Dr. Bosley



Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1877 by C. M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.



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THOMAS WHITTLE HSE.  
N.W. CORNER

W. NIELD  
WINTER 77/78



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THOMAS WHITTLE HSE.  
S.W. CORNER

W. NIELD

WINTER 77-78



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THOMAS WHITTLE HSE  
S.W.

W. NIELD

WINTER 77-78