

512 DELAWARE AVE.

This property is the site of Towson's first public school. The school is believed to have been a log structure which was used until 1860. By the 1880's the old school building was replaced with this fashionable Victorian residence. The house is of frame construction although there are rough log joists on the first level.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Shealey-Bowen House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

512 Delaware Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John K. Pielsilver

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. New Courts Building

STREET & NUMBER

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

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a two story frame building with a large attic that was one of the bigger dwellings on Delaware Avenue in the late 19th century. An oblong building bigger than "A. Phipps" (next door) appears on both the 1877 and 1898 atlases. A schoolhouse appears on this corner lot on the 1853 Zur Horst map and the Taylor article of 1885 referred to it as a log building. It is presumed that the log schoolbuilding was destroyed or moved sometime after 1853 and replaced by this present structure before 1877. Structural analysis suggests that the schoolhouse was not converted into a residence as many suppose. The origin for this belief may be the article which appeared in the "Baltimore County Union" on September 1, 1894. In discussing the history of the neighborhood schools the article said:

"The first public school was kept in the building now occupied by Mr. C.E. Bowen as a dwelling house in the rear of Reed's Hotel, at what was then the junction of the Joppa and Hillen roads. The first teacher who had charge of the school was a Mr. Johnson. He was succeeded by Edward Flayhart, Robert Gray, and Richard Burke."

Deedbook WMI 131/282 show C.E. Bowen taking ownership of this parcel in 1882. The 1877 Atlas and Platbook JWS 1/132 suggest that this frame building dates from that period. According to the Taylor article the schoolhouse was of log construction.

EXTERIOR-

Red asbestos hides the fact that this house was originally covered with clapboards. Examination of the attic proves that it was originally roofed with shakes. Fenestration is generally regular but there are exceptions. The massing of the building is characteristic of the period insofar as it is irregular and multidirectional. Both the east (back) and west (front) facades have porches.

West Facade-

Since this house occupies a corner lot it has two street facades (Shealey Ave. and Delaware Ave.) but its west facade, which faces Delaware, is perceived to be its main facade. There is a formal quality to this side of the building which is achieved through the large and deeply corniced gable as well as the porch. This is the entrance facade.

This formalness is in no way static, however, as there is no centralizing factor. The lower bays are three in number while the upper bays are only two. The gable itself is off center and the entrance is in the southern bay.

The gable is deeply cornices and is vented by a double casement window with three lights per window. The frame of this window, like the other gable windows, repeats the motif of a pediment. This window frame, however, is the only one with a cartouche.

A full porch covers the first story and it is supported by turned columns with tracery-like brackets. The first floor, or porch windows, are tall (floor to ceiling) 4/4 sash containing wavy bubbled panes of glass. These windows occupy the north and central bays. The entrance contains a glass door with a long transom.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

East facade-

Deep cornices and casement windows are also seen in the gable of the east facade. There are pairs of 6/6 sash on the first and second levels.

This wing contains the kitchen and it is not surprising that there is a porch. It has wooden shingles on its shed roof and vertical tongue-and-groove in the end panels. The only entrance to the house besides the west door and an exterior basement entrance is in the southern bay of this wing.

South Facade-

The south side of the house is the most irregular both in massing and fenestration. What would normally be an L-plan ell is interrupted by a two story projection to the south off of the east wing. This wing contains a 20th century bathroom and is probably an addition. The 1877 Atlas and the 1880's plat support this assumption.

The fenestration of this facade is the most irregular with the irregularities being more in the size and type of window than placement. A single large 1/1 window vents the west bay of the second floor of the main block but there is a smaller 1/1 sash beneath it. Those of the east bay are alike but these are double casement windows. 1/1 sash are in the central portion of this facade but casements vent the projection.

There are two chimneys. The largest is the central chimney which is corbelled. A plain flue-chimney is located on the inside of the end wall of the east wing.

INTERIOR-

The interior has been much altered but original fabric can be seen on all three levels.

This house has a partial basement which runs the entire length of the south side. The floor is dirt, the walls are made of uncoursed stone. The basement is vented by a window in the south wall and a coal chute on the east end of that same wall. Approximately 2/3 the distance of the room, in the middle of the west end the support for the major chimney can be seen. Another flue-chimney support is on the east end of the room.

It can be seen in the cellar that the floor joists for the first level are made of rough logs, most of them still retaining their bark. They have been rough hewn on the top in order to accommodate floor boards. Every other joist in the east end, however, is a circular sawn 3" x 8".

Log joists are not common in Towson and the fact that a log schoolhouse stood on this site in the 1830's sparked some interest in the origin of these logs. It is possible that these joists were saved from the schoolhouse and reused but there is no proof of this having been done.

On the first, or main level, one can see that the house is laid out to have a side hall and double parlor plan. The kitchen occupies the first level of the east wing. The entrance hall occupies the south bay of the main block. It contains a winding closed string stairs on the south wall. The stairs are made decorative by reeded paneling, turned balusters and a turned newel with a ball on top.

The hall is connected to both parlors. The front or west parlor is the smaller of the two and is suspected of having been the most formal. The family parlor or east room is larger than the west parlor and it exists in between it and the kitchen. The two parlors are separated by double doors.

The family room most likely contained a dining area. The chimney projects into the room c. 15" from the west wall. Alterations make difficult an understanding of the mantelpiece and surround. A working fireplace seems unlikely; a Latrobe stove is quite probable. The family room is characterized by the polygonal bay of the swell-front on the north wall. Along with the windows of the south wall this feature contributes to a bright and spacious feeling.

The kitchen has suffered alterations as well. It is a rather large room with its own flue in the middle of the east wall. There is a hidden "back" stairs leading to the second story that begins in the northwest corner of the kitchen. An entrance from the yard is located in the south bay of the east wall. Plumbing fixtures are located beneath a window in the south wall.

The second story contains a side hall and three full rooms. The doors of these rooms are 2/2 paneled and have early hardware such as metal box locks (tenon) and wood grain porcelain knobs.

In the attic it was observed that the rafters are joined at a ridgepole with cut nails.

Conclusion-

The 1880's plat of "Mrs. Mary Shealey's Land" and Hopkins' 1877 Atlas show a building on this lot which has this same plan relative in size. The school-house which is known to have been on this site in 1853 was not used as a school after 1860. The Shealeys owned this land from at least 1848 until 1882 and the house may have been built during their ownership. Whether it was lived in by members of that family or used as a rental property is as yet unclear. It is possible that the Hopkins map is showing the old school building and that this structure was built as a residence when Charles E. Bowen acquired the lot in 1882. The aforementioned 1898 "Baltimore County Union" article does verify at least that C.E. Bowen lived here.

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		

SPECIFIC DATES *Pre-1877*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This property is the site of Towson's first public school. The school is believed to have been a log structure which was used until 1860. By the 1880's the old school building was replaced with this fashionable Victorian residence. The house is of frame construction although there are rough log joists on the first level.

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 512 DELAWARE AVE.

Liber 5713, Folio 518 December 30, 1976
 Grantor: University National Bank
 Grantee: John K. Pielsilver

Two lots (Scheduale A)
 I- # 513 Virginia Ave.
 II- # 100-102 Shealey Ave.
 # 512 Delaware Ave.

Description of II-

"Beginning for the same at the beginning stone on that lot of ground which by a deed of assignment dated March 6, 1873...in Liber EHA 79/487 (Sarah Whittle to A Phipps)...located on the east side of Delaware Ave. (formerly the old Hillen Rd.)...37 ft. to south side of Shealey Ave., North 89° 29' East 281.10 ft. to an iron pin planted in an iron fence erected around the Shealey Burying Ground, thence running with and binding on said fence South 1° 28' East 38.92 ft. to iron pin planted in second or South 87½° West 81 ft. line of that tract of land which by deed...July 14, 1898...in NBM 234/118 (County School Commissioners to S. Howard Merryman)... 89° 15' West 54.54 ft. to stone planted at end of said line... binding on Shealey Line as called for in deed from E.J. Fox and wife to J.W. Phipps..."

-remains the same back to 1882

RRG 4284, Folio 52 April 7, 1964
 Grantor: Harry G. Stathis & wife
 Grantee: Towson Center, Inc.
 (Parcel 12 5269/551)

RJS 1377, Folio 285 March 1, 1945
 Grantor: Charles L. Burns & wife
 Grantee: Harry G. Stathis

WPC 283, Folio 215 February 6, 1905
 Grantor: Laura J. Bowen & husband
 Grantee: Charles T. Burns & wife
 (Charles T. Bowen deceased Oct. 10, 1935)
 (Wife Loretta deceased Feb. 19, 1938)

Charles L. Burns & Mary L. Murray heirs and nearest kin.

Mortgage Charles E. and Laura/Dixon Connolly LMB 172/510

JWS 174, Folio 477 March 5, 1889
 Grantor: Charles E. Bowen
 Grantee: Laura J. Bowen

WMI 131, Folio 282 October 18, 1882
 Grantor: John T. Morris and Charles Fendall (Receivers)
 Grantee: Charles E. Bowen **

Note- The McClean plat c. 1882-1888 lists this property as belonging to "C. Bohn Slingluff" who does not appear anywhere in the chain of title. Other discrepancies appear on the same plat (see William Bowen of S. House)

Equity docket WMI 8/29 & 35 & 63 et.al.
 Joseph B. Mitchell (trustee) et.al. vs. William L. Roberts May 19, 1881.

"lot # 9" for \$800.
 "being a part of the Shealey property described in AWB 403/492"

Henry Reiman & wife to Mary A. Shealey (no date). Liber 66/546 Feb. 24, 1870. cites AWB 403/492 Nov. 3, 1848 Henry Reiman & wife to Peter Wilcox for Mary Ann Shealey. Probably M.E. Church property described as adjoining land already owned by Mrs. Shealey

Equity Case # 4421, 4423 January 21, 1881
 (see Equity Docket # 8/29 et.al.)

-on or c. Dec. 16, 1880 M.A. Shealey made Deed of Trust to Joseph B. Mitchell & Ephraim B. Almony. William Shealey had been declared a lunatic. Conveyed all of her property in WMI 120/34.

Statement of pedigree:

Mary Ann Schmuck married William Shealey July 7, 1836. They had the following children:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Death</u>
Wm. Shealey Jr.	June 23, 1837	Aug. 18, 1889
Franklin S.	May 23, 1840	1890-1893
Daniel S. *	Aug. 5, 1842	Apr. 12, 1879
George W.S.	Oct. 19, 1844	Mar. 21, 1923
Henry W.S.	Feb. 21, 1847	May 6, 1906
John W.S.	Apr. 26, 1850	July 18, 1888
Solomon S.	July 29, 1852	Apr., 12, 1884
Andrew R.S.	June 10, 1855	Aug., 14, 1855
Ridgeway S.	Dec. 7, 1856	July 18, 1857

William Shealey died April 3, 1886

Mary Ann Shealey died, intestate, February 5, 1887

*see Inventory Book 15/396 (1879)

-above information based on information provided by Harry S Shealey of Dundalk in testimony taken in Baltimore County circuit court Oct.30, 1952. Shealey cites the Shealey Family Bible as his source. Photocopies of this Bible are in this packet.

** Trustees for M.A. Shealey filed bill of complaint against Wm. L. Roberts (executor of E. Roberts) 1881 for money owed as result of properties M.A. Shealey had acquired as result of lease from Ed. Roberts Sept 14, 1878 in J.B. 105/184.

J.B. 105, Folio 184 September 14, 1878
 Grantor: Ed. Roberts & wife
 Grantee: M.A. Shealey

"wife of William Shealey...said William having been declared a lunatic..."

leasing parts of Molleys Industry and Pearces Security.

"excepting three roads and 28 perches which were by Indenture dated Oct. 28, 1836 (T.K. 264/315) George Shealey to G. Shealey Jr.

plus

small lot granted to M.E. church Oct. 14, 1870

plus

"small portion" leased from M.A. Shealey to Wm. F. Pearce et.al. for 99years beginning Sept.1, 1858 (GHC 24/194) (Dulaney Valley & Towsontown Turnpike co.)

J.B. 100, Folio 113 June 3, 1876
 Grantor: Mary Ann Shealey
 Grantee: E. Roberts

William Shealey declared lunatic May 24, 1876 (Equity Docket 5/198)

M.A. Shealey sold land for \$15,000 to Roberts that Shealey had purchased from Reiman in 1848.

Two tracts "Mollys Industry" and "Pearces Security"

Baltimore County Plat Book J.W.S. 1/132

"Plat of Mrs. Mary Shealey's Land"

Desireable lots for asle or lease Apply to Morris & Fendall.

John T. Morris
 #43 North Charles St.

Charles E. Fendall
 Smedly Row
 Towsontown

"Lots shaded yellow are those which were sold Jan. 4, 1888 by John T. Morris and Charles E. Fendall Receivers.

Charles B. McClean
 County Surveyor for Baltimore Co.
 (Rm. # 7 Masonic Building)

one of those is this corner lot #9, although "Shealey Ave" is not labled.
 Lot #9 contains:

and name "C. BOHN SLINGLUFF"

Graveyard indicated

Tax Assessment 1876 Mary A. Shealey

Lot at junction of York Road and Dulany's Valley Road
7½ acres at \$800.

Improvements - Double brick dwelling with back building
Two frame dwellings on the Pike
Four frame dwellings near Adys Hotel
Two frame stables
Dairy greenhouse, etc.

Lot on west side York Road adjoining Odd Fellows Hall
36' x 162'

Improvements- Stone Store and printing office

Lot on south side of Allegheny Ave. adjoining Qwings

Improvements - Two brick dwellings

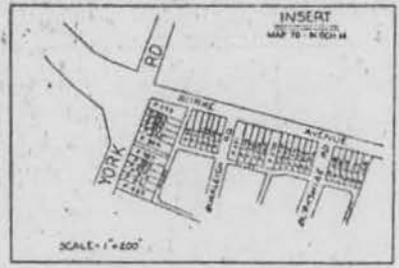
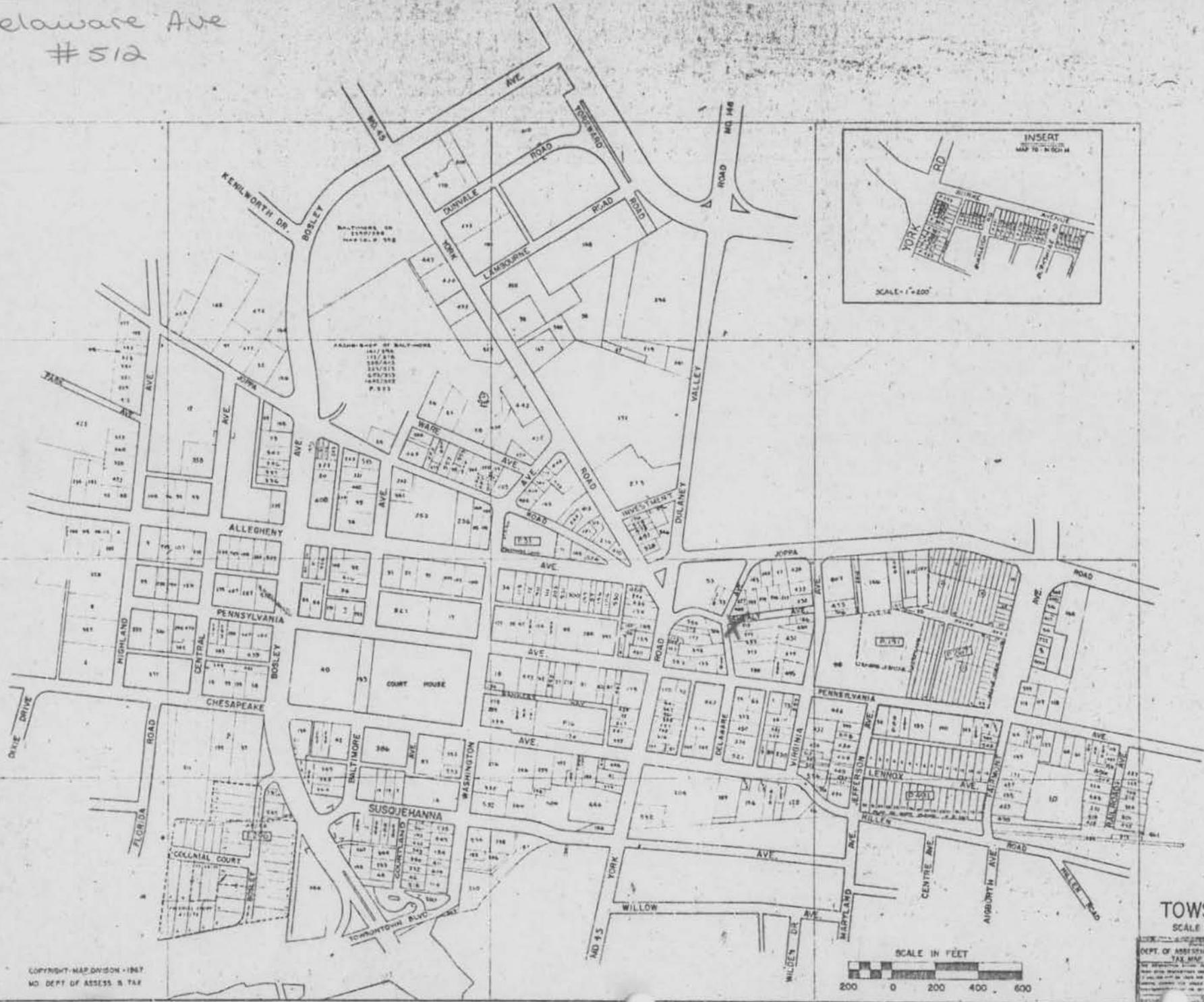
Tract on west side Joppa Road east of Towsontown

65 acres

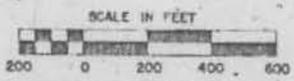
Improvements - One log house
One barrack
Coal office and scales

Delaware Ave
#512

BA-1479



COPYRIGHT-MAP DIVISION - 1987
MD DEPT. OF ASSESS. & TAX



TOWSON
SCALE 1" = 200'

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
TAX MAP DIVISION

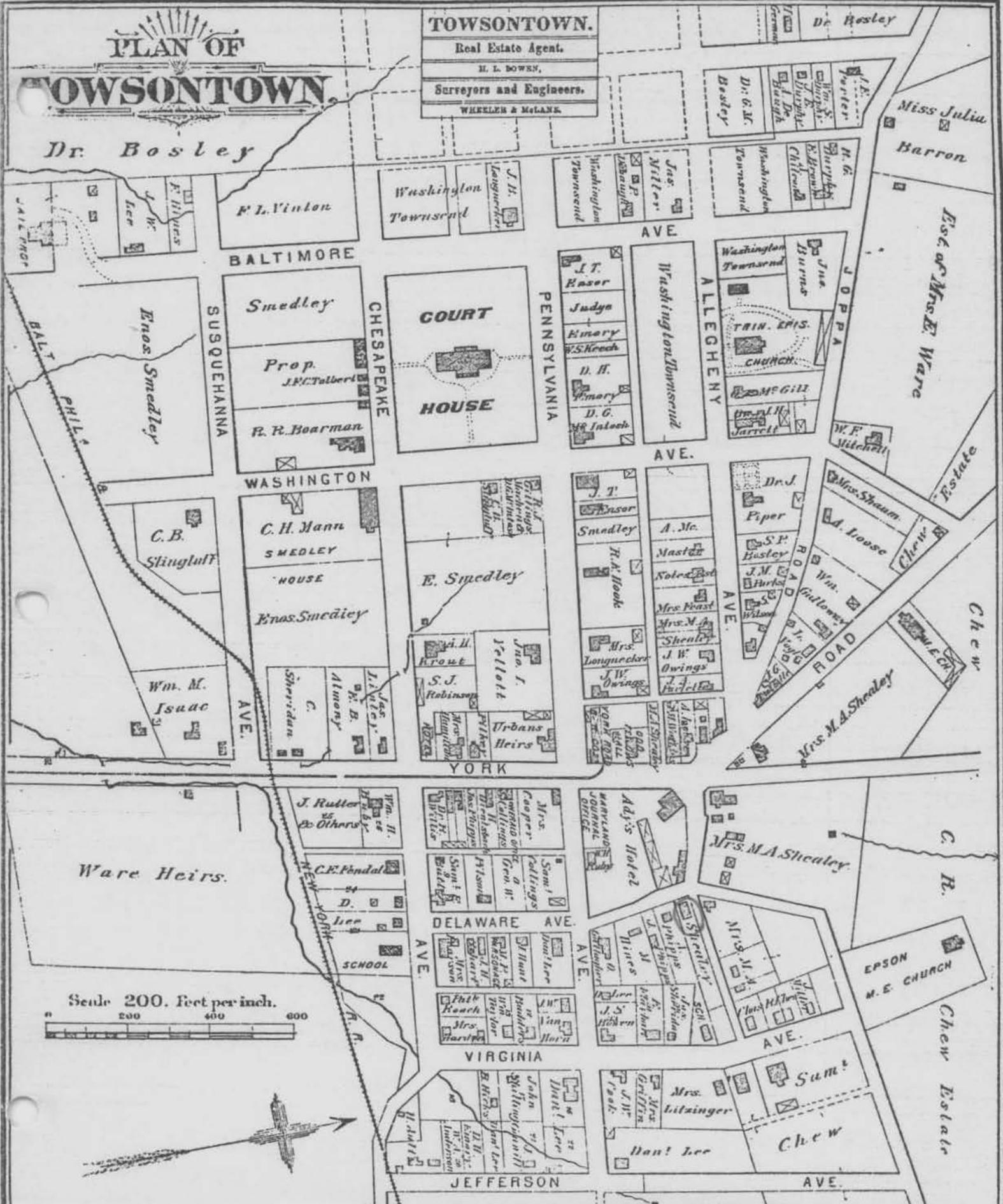
MAP NO. 70A

BA-1479

PLAN OF TOWSONTOWN.

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

Dr. Bosley



Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1877 by C. H. Hopkins, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.



BA-1479

#512 DELAWARE Ave
detail of W. porch

W. NIELD
Sum. 78



BA-1479

512 DELAWARE AVE
N.

W. NIELD
SUM-78



BA-1479

#5/2 DEWARRE
W.

W. NIELD
SUM-78



BA-1479

#512 DELAWARE
W. FACADE

W. Nicell
Sum. 78



BA-1479

512 DELAWARE AVE.
N.W.

W. NIELD



BA-1479

#512 DECAWARE Ave
N.

W. NIELD
SUM-78



BA-1479

512 DELAWARE AVE.
DETAIL W. FACADE

W. NIELD



BA-1479

#512 DELAWARE Ave
detail of w. facade

W. NIELD
SUM-78