

CROSS-GABLE HOUSE, VIRGINIA AND SHEALEY AVES.

Finding its roots in the central pediment the "cross-gable" is an architectural element that enjoyed particular popularity in America during most of the 19th century and at least a quarter of the 20th century. It can be found on residences, barns, stores and factories as early as the 1830's and as late as the 1930's. Studies in some sections of Maryland for this period show as many as 50% to 60% of the structures in a given area to have been cross-gables.

This town was no exception and there are at least twenty residences still standing in central Towson (Nov., 1977) to prove the fact.

The German Houses and the Chew House on the northwest corner of Shealey and Virginia Aves. are important not only as individual examples of this stylistic tradition but also as components of what was a continuous streetscape of cross-gable facades.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cross - Gable House, Shealey Ave. (Chew House)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Josef of Vienna Inc.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 5720

Folio #: 891

STREET & NUMBER

Pennsylvania Ave.

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**

<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	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE <u>Fall, 1977</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

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

The house which stands at 515 Virginia Ave. is of cross gable design. This two story frame house is resting on a stone foundation approximately 38 inches off the ground. There are two corbeled interior chimneys at the East and West ends of the roof. The house is covered with cedar shingles which appear to be covering clapboards. The fenestration is regular, and all windows are surrounded with plain frames. An entrance is located in the South of the East end. A double hung window with 6/1 lights is located in the North bay. The second story windows are also double hung with 1/1 lights. A single story porch roof covers two bays of the south facade, wraps around the SE corner of the building and ends covering the two bays of the East facade. The porch rests upon brick piers. There is evidence of former lattice boarding between the bottom of the porch and the ground. Seven square columns support the porch. The porch has a tongue and groove ceiling and flooring. The space between the floor of the porch and the ledge is solid and shingled. The ledge is one foot wide and finished in a rounded molding. The South side of the house is three bays wide with a cross gabled roof, originally the front facade. The outside fenestration of the house suggests a centralized hall plan with possibly two rooms on each floor. Although windows are double hung they possibly are not the original windows. The cross gable is vented by an oculus window. On the exterior of the South side is evidence of a basement. Use of this and an entrance is uncertain. Projecting out of the West end is a shed roofed wing which appears to be a later addition. It is possibly a kitchen. This wing is resting upon a foundation of rusticated formstone. In the Southwest corner is a casement window which has 3 verticle lights in each half. In this same area is evidence of a 4' by 6' porch. The North side of the house has two double hung windows with 6/1 lights in the first story. The second corner of the dwelling which seems to accomodate a drainpipe which runs from the second story to the ground. This possibly was added to the house at a later date.

There is a single car garage located about 20 feet from the Northwest corner of the house. It is approximately 12 feet wide and 16 feet long. The walls are shingled like the house. The hipped roof is finished with a boxed cornice.

No statements can be made about the interior of the house since the owner refused permission to view the interior of the dwelling.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is significant because it is able to document the way Shealey Ave. looked before 1925 and perhaps before 1900. Mention is made of Virginia Ave. near Joppa Road and the surrounding area in the deed between the Chew family in 1867, Liber 54, Folio 267. Although the exact date of this building is not known, a late 19th century date is possible. The Hopkins Atlas of 1877 does show a building of this size on this plot of land as belonging to Charles Chew. It is also interesting to note that this area of Virginia Ave. was called "Chewville" in the mid-19th century and this building could be a visual document of their period.

The exact number of cross gable houses that were once in Towson is not known but the survey that is in progress, aided by a collection of early photos, indicate this to be an important architectural form in an understanding of this community's physical appearance in the 19th and Early 20th centuries. The examples of this type are beginning to disappear at a considerable rate, and this building should be seen as an example of a type that was popular not only in this neighborhood or town but indeed throughout America.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION** Beginning for the same at the West side of Virginia Ave. at the intersection of the same with the North side of a road 20 feet wide leading from said Ave. to the Joppa Road, said point being also located in the third line of the second lot of parcels of land which, by Indenture dated June 18, 1867, and recorded among the land records of Baltimore County in Liber J.H.L. No. 54, folio 267, was conveyed by Benjamin Chew and others to Charles R. Chew; and running thence bounding on the North side of the said 28 foot Road, South 88 degrees West 89-1/2 feet to intersect the first line of the aforesaid

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Mary Sue Greisman

ORGANIZATION

WAYNE L. NIELD, II  
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

Dec. 12, 1977

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Goucher College

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

TELEPHONE

825-3300

STATE

Maryland 21201

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

## Verbal Boundary Description Continued

second lot thence running with and bounding on part of said line as now indicated by the needle, North  $5\frac{3}{4}$  degrees West  $56\frac{3}{12}$  feet, thence along a line of fence as now erected North 89 degrees East  $93\frac{2}{12}$  feet up Virginia Ave. and to intersect the first herein recited line and thence with said line and bounding on the West side of said Virginia Ave. South  $1\frac{1}{2}$  degrees West  $55\frac{2}{12}$  feet to the place of beginning containing  $117\frac{1}{1000}$  acres of land thereon are now known as No. 15 Virginia Ave.

## CROSS-GABLE - SHEALEY &amp; VIRGINIA AVES.

Liber 5720, Folio 891 January 27, 1977  
Grantor: David W. Ireby & Theodore Coleman  
Grantee: Josef of Vienna Inc.

"Beginning...West side of Virginia Ave. at the intersection  
of the same with north side of a road...89 4/12'...117 acres of  
land...known as No. 515 Virginia Ave."

Liber 5269, Folio 551 May 19, 1972  
Grantor: Michael R. Deutschman et. al.  
Grantee: Towson Associates

Liber 4100, Folio 493 January 16, 1963  
Grantor: Towson Building Company, Inc.  
Grantee: William L. Gaebel

Liber 3749, Folio 544 September 1, 1960  
Grantor: Ethel V. Koerner  
Grantee: Towson Building Co., Inc.

Liber 572, Folio 504 June 12, 1923  
Grantor: Elizabeth A. Miles  
Grantee: William M. Koerner & wife

Liber 185, Folio 545 April 29, 1891  
Grantor: Henry B. Chew  
Grantee: Elizabeth A. Miles

Will Book 5, Folio 44 Charles Ridgely Chew May 27, 1874  
Referred to in the fourth item.

Liber 54, Folio 267 June 8, 1867 Deed of Partition  
Between Charles R. Chew & wife  
Benjamin Chew and Samuel Chew

Liber 29, Folio 90 April 19, 1860  
Grantor: John Ridgely et. al.  
Grantee: Henry B. Chew

Continuation Sheet

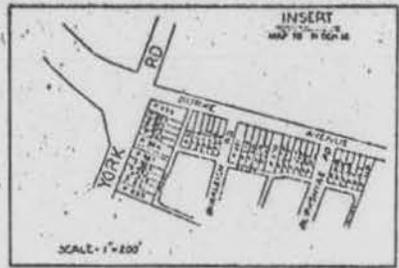
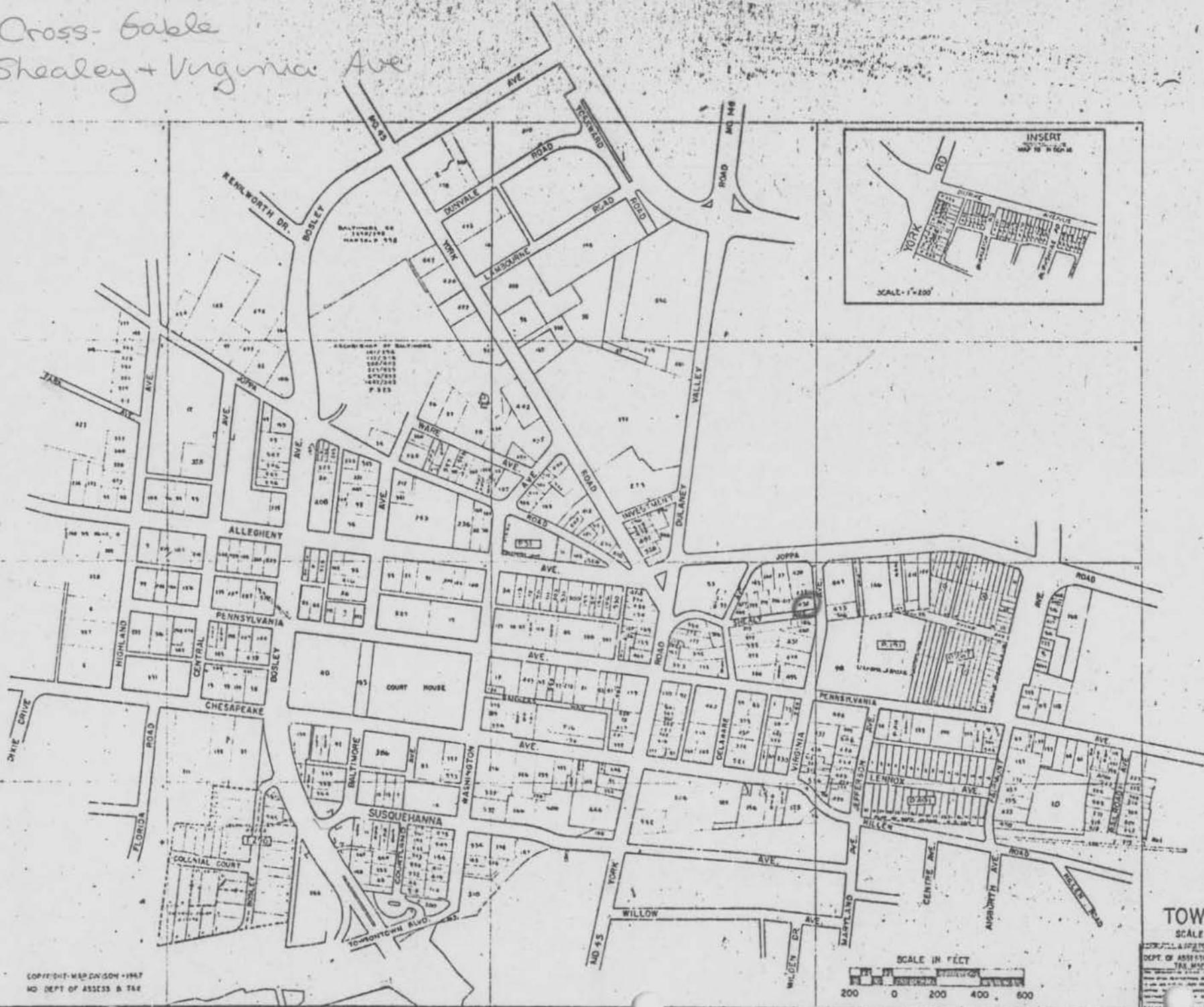
Title Search

Baltimore County Advocate February 11, 1860

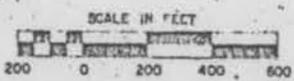
AD: Sale, Two story Frame dwelling - corner of Virginia Ave. and  
Shealey Ave. Shortly to be completed.

Cross-Table  
Shealey + Virginia Ave

BA-1483



COPYRIGHT-MAPDING 1987  
MO-DEPT OF ASSESS & TAX



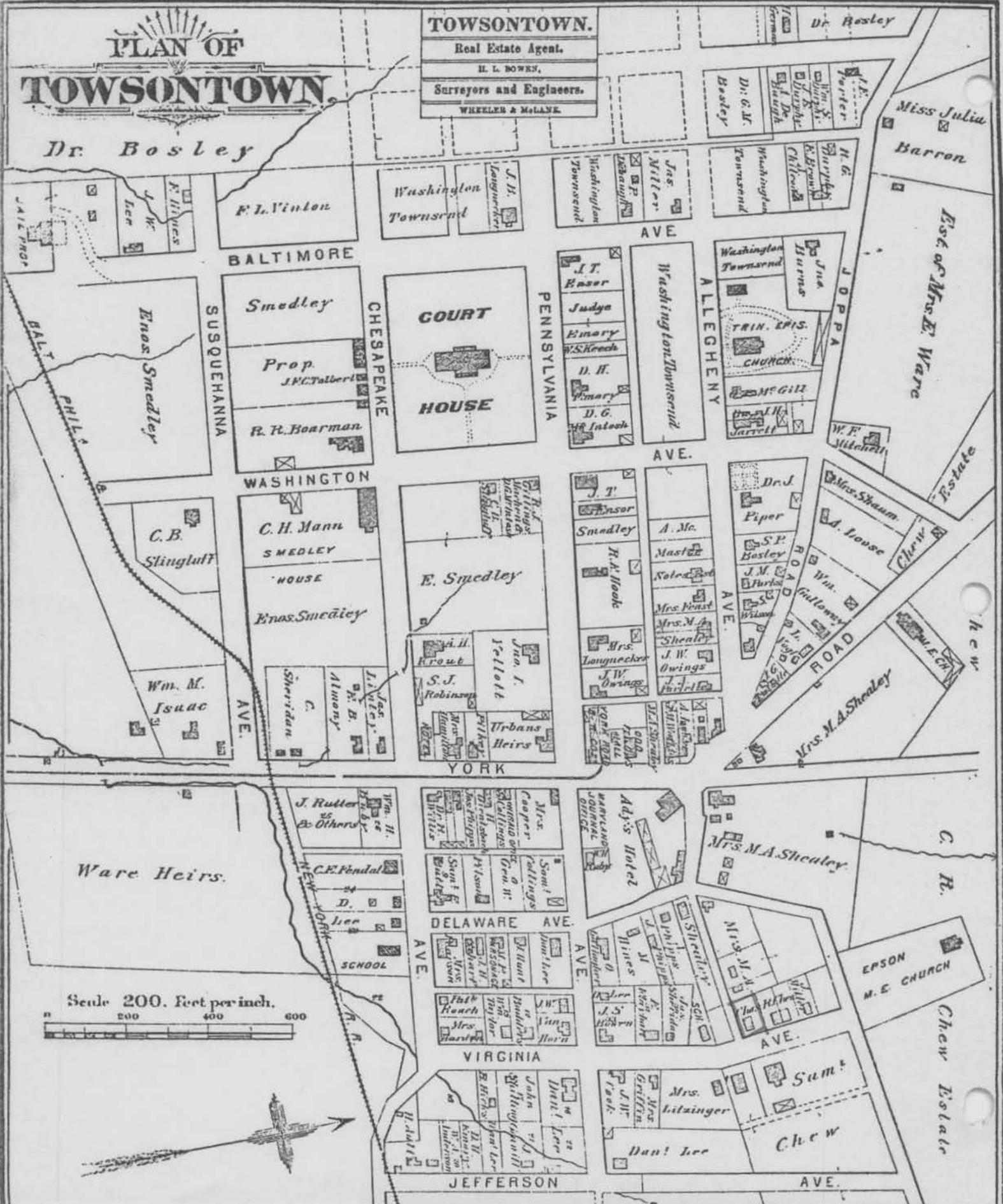
TOWSON  
SCALE 1" = 200'  
DEPT. OF ASSESSMENT & TAXATION  
TAL MAP SYSTEMS

MAP M  
70A

# PLAN OF TOWSONTOWN.

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

Dr. Bosley



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



BA-1483

CROSS-GABLE  
SHEALEY + VIRGINIA AVES.  
S.W.

W. NIELD