

CAPSULE
SCARBORO HOUSE

Although the "picturesque" attitude in architecture began before the mid-19th century it remained mature and vital into the early 20th century. Among its best expressions in this century were the number of organically planned houses that related by way of the organic plans and naturally coloured wooden shingles. These later Queen Anne houses, in spite of whatever Classical or Colonial Revival elements which they often possessed, are essentially Victorian in character and pre-modern in attitude. The Scarboro House, built between 1906 and 1911, is one example.

This rambling shingle-style house occupies a well landscaped site full of large trees and many domesticated shrubs. Original projections and later additions make it crawl on a hill-top site. Large windows and polygonal wings which seek light, and decorative details such as keyed archways lend the building an elegance which is seldom seen in comparable buildings of today.

At present this once delightful residence is derelict, the victim of fire and vandalism, and a genuine shadow of its former self.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA - 1751
MAGI - 0317514704

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Scarboro House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

509 Chesapeake Ave.

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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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

David S. Thaler

Telephone #: 377-4461

STREET & NUMBER

1110 Lake Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: 5059

Folio #: 606

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-1751

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>March 30, 1979</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This building, when first examined March 30, had evidence of vandalism and when next visited one week later had been gutted by fire.

The late Victorian Queen Anne style house sits atop a well landscaped hill. Because it employs materials typical to this particular style, it blends well with its environment.

A high stone foundation (44 inches) supports this irregular T-shaped balloon frame structure which stands two stories high with an attic. The exterior walls are covered with narrow, plain clapboards (3 inches showing) on the first level while brown wooden shingles cover the upper levels. There is a regular but varied fenestration with very tall windows on the first level measuring 90 inches high and 29 inches wide.

The north facade is the main facade and contains many interesting characteristics. Most prominent is the two story polygonal projection. This projection has a steeply pitched gable end with deep eaves.

The main block itself is three bays wide. This gabled facade is occupied by an exterior chimney located in the corner formed by the projection and the block. The chimney is made of salmon colored brick with yellow decoration at the shoulders. What appears to be an original fireplace is served by this chimney and is located in this southwest corner of the porch. The siding has been cut to fit this fireplace which is made of a deep red brick. There is also a brick hearth in the porch floor.

The porch occupies the ell and is three bays wide. A single story shed roof is supported by short clustered square columns resting on a shingled enclosure measuring 2½ feet high. Lattice work occupies the space between this enclosure and the ground. The distance between the columns is spanned by round arches with shingled spandrels. The tongue and groove ceiling of the porch is trapezoidal.

Another notable feature is an unusual window just east of the fireplace, the lower portion of which has been stepped relating to the stairway within.

The gable is vented by a pair of 3/1 sash windows placed off center in relation to the chimney.

Three bays of the northern projection have a western exposure. The main block has centrally placed pedimented dormers that suggest a cross-gable.

The symmetry is broken by the fact that the southern one-third of the facade projects 6 feet to the West, is gabled, and windowless on the first level. It is also vented by a single window on the second and attic level.

The south facade is the most regular although there are four unevenly spaced bays. The first level of the westernmost bay was once apparently occupied by a recessed entrance which still has a bracketed hood that constitutes a pediment over a keyed arch. This arch is 5 inches wide, has an opening of 66 inches and measures 99 inches from the top of the key to the bottom of the opening.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

A bulk head for a partial cellar below is also on this end of the building.

The main block on the east end constitutes an ell formed with an eastern projection. This also once had an entrance and window for the parlor within. There is a single story hipped roof porch supported by two thin square columns.

A well designed two car garage extends the building to the east. It has a cat slide roof. The living area on the second level has an unusually deep recessed window with an end brick chimney.

Interior:

Due to the insensitive vandalism the interior has lost most of its original character. However, some materials remain.

A partial cellar exists under the west end of the building. This stone foundation is composed of flat layered stones which have been whitewashed. It is lighted by four 2 light casements in the west wall.

The room itself is deep with a $7\frac{1}{2}$ foot space between the joists and the floor. The room measures 12 feet wide with the exception of the L-shape containing a stairway from the kitchen above.

There is a rectangular shaped chimney and hearth support for the fireplace above on the east wall. There is also a chimney support with a double segmental arch.

The first level is entered into by a glass door with transom and window well which lights the spacious entrance hall. This hall contains a dog leg stair with closed string step ends covered with fluted panel typical of the period. This matches and relates to other mouldings in the house. There was once turned balusters and rectangular posts with pendants. To the east of this hall is a well lit parlor entered through a double doorway with sliding disappearing doors. The parlor has two large windows on the north wall and one on the south. Like the rest of the house, the floors and windows are trimmed with a beaded moulding $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide with bulls eye corner blocks. Baseboards measure 7 inches, the ceiling measures 9 feet high.

A centrally located fireplace occupies the windowless east wall. This brick fireplace has only a ghost image of the mantel and very large surround. The opening measures $30\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide by 29 inches high and is a shallow 15 inches deep. The mantel and surround appear to have been about one foot wide with an entablature being 2 feet high. From the bottom of the entablature to the top of the shelf was probably 27 inches high. This mantelpiece appears to have been attached with cut nails.

Another parlor to the South was probably the dining room. It is also entered from the hall through a double sliding-door doorway. It extends beyond the east parlor to the South and has no access to that room. However, there is a door on the east wall which leads to the outside. There is a sash window on the south wall which seems to have been a $32/1$ light of a typical Queen Anne pattern.

There is a corner fireplace in the southwest corner which has a reduced opening covered by a ceramic mantelpiece. It seems to be bricked with the outer edges having been molded to form an egg and dart motif with dentils for the cornice.

The west parlor off of the entrance hall is entered through a round arch door which is interrupted at the springs by corner blocks. This room occupies the polygonal north end.

There is a fireplace on the east wall which, like the other, has a reduced opening with ceramic dentil. The mantel area appears to have been altered by two courses of brick. The flue constitutes a buttress and projects 20 inches. The bricks are laid in a pyramid fashion and are a deep red similar to those in the fireplace on the porch. On either side of the chimney breasts there are yellow bricks taking the shape of a cruciform.

Seen in this room as in various others are cast iron radiators that have an embossed floral pattern.

The southwest corner of the building is occupied by the kitchen area and a semi-enclosed porch. This porch area has tongue and groove ceiling and contains the keyed arch entranceway of the south facade.

The northwest corner of the kitchen contains a back stair to the upper levels.

The most unusual feature in the kitchen is a tall fireplace on the east end which was made as an imitation cooking fireplace but is designed only to accommodate a wood or coal stove. It measures one foot deep, 40 inches wide and 54 inches tall with a segmental arch made of brick. The distance between the shelf and the floor is 69 inches.

The second level follows the plan of the first, having a large bedroom on the east end, a large central room, and one large, one small bedroom and one bathroom on the other end.

The central room has a 32/1 sash window similar to the one in the room below. The opening measures 44½ inches wide by 53 inches tall. Each pane is 5½ inches by 4½ inches wide.

The third level constitutes a finished attic. An unusual space is created by the meeting of the multi-directional gables. It is basically one room.

There is one Queen Anne casement window with diamond shaped mullions in the west dormer, and a small pair of 3/1 sash lighting the stair.

Exposed are laths with animal hair plaster.

Outbuildings:

West of the house stand the remains of two outbuildings. The two are placed directly opposite one another and stand 10 feet apart. The first one closest to the house is survived only by its concrete block foundation measuring approximately 16 feet square. Each block has two threaded vertically placed bolts. There is gas and water supply.

The second building is a two story frame structure on a concrete foundation which seems to have been designed to house fowl. The building measures 16 feet 3 inches wide by 32 feet long. The siding is german clapboards.

The irregular feature is that the shed roof is higher on the west end than the east. The ridge sets back 3 feet from the south wall and gives a cat slide roof appearance. Between the eaves and the ground the southeast corner measures 11 feet while the southwest corner measures 13½ feet.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1906 - 1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the "picturesque" attitude in architecture began before the mid-19th century it remained mature and vital into the early 20th century. Among its best expressions in this century were the number of organically planned houses that related by way of the organic plans and naturally coloured wooden shingles. These later Queen Anne houses, inspite of whatever Classical or Colonial Revival elements which they often possessed, are essentially Victorian in character and pre-modern in attitude. The Scarboro House, built between 1906 and 1911, is one example.

This rambling shingle-style house occupies a well landscaped site full of large trees and many domesticated shrubs. Original projections and later additions make it crawl on a hilltop site. Large windows and polygonal windows which seek light, and decorative details such as keyed archways lend the building an elegance which is seldom seen in comparable buildings of today.

At present this once delightful residence is derelict, the victim of fire and vandalism, and a genuine shadow of its former self.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Land Records

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

D. O. Schultz

WAYNE L. NIELD, II
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

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

CHAIN OF TITLE FOR # 509 W. CHESAPEAKE AVE.
Parcel 22, Map 69

<u>LIBER</u>	<u>FOLIO</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>
5059	606	December 15, 1969	Gaylord R. Auer	Paul K. Hampshire
<p>Beginning...first...center of Chesapeake Avenue...the South 72$\frac{1}{2}$⁰ West 304' line of deed 264/86 July 12, 1906 conveyed by Richard H. Pleasants to Thomas W. Offutt...containing 2.35 acres</p> <p>Beginning...second,,,containing 2.32 acres.</p> <p>Both being known as # 509 W. Chesapeake Avenue.</p>				
1289	253	June 5, 1943	Nellie L. Gessford, Exec.	Gaylord R. Auer
542	53	June 6, 1921	Harold Scarboro et al	Joseph Gessford
<p>The Last Will and Testament of Joseph Gessford JPC 27/324 divided all to his wife Catherine B. Gessford who by Last Will and Testament JPC 37/47 appointed Nellie L. Gessford Executrix.</p>				
299	452	June 9, 1906	Richard H. Pleasants	Frances E. Scarboro
260	101	February 13, 1902	Arthur L. Bosley et al	Richard H. Pleasants
<p>Containing 214$\frac{1}{4}$ acres</p>				
245	445	June 10, 1901	Skipwith Wilmer et al Trustee	Arthur L. Bosley
213	89	July 1, 1895	Ann Donnell et al	Skipwith Wilmer
<p>Described 25th - part of Gotts Hope and Gunners Range</p>				
81	4	June 9, 1873	Amos Matthews & wife	Thomas M. Keerl & wife
WG 184	438	January 26, 1827	Benjamin Bond et al	Mordecai Matthews
DMP 13	371	February 24, 1830	Mordecai Matthews	Amos Matthews
<p>LAST WILL & TESTAMENT</p>				

BA-1757

TAX ASSESSMENT RECORDS FOR SCARBORO HOUSE

1911 Tax Assessment

Harold and Frances E. Scarboro

Lot Southeast side of W. Chesapeake Ave.
Towson 2.32 acres

Frame House

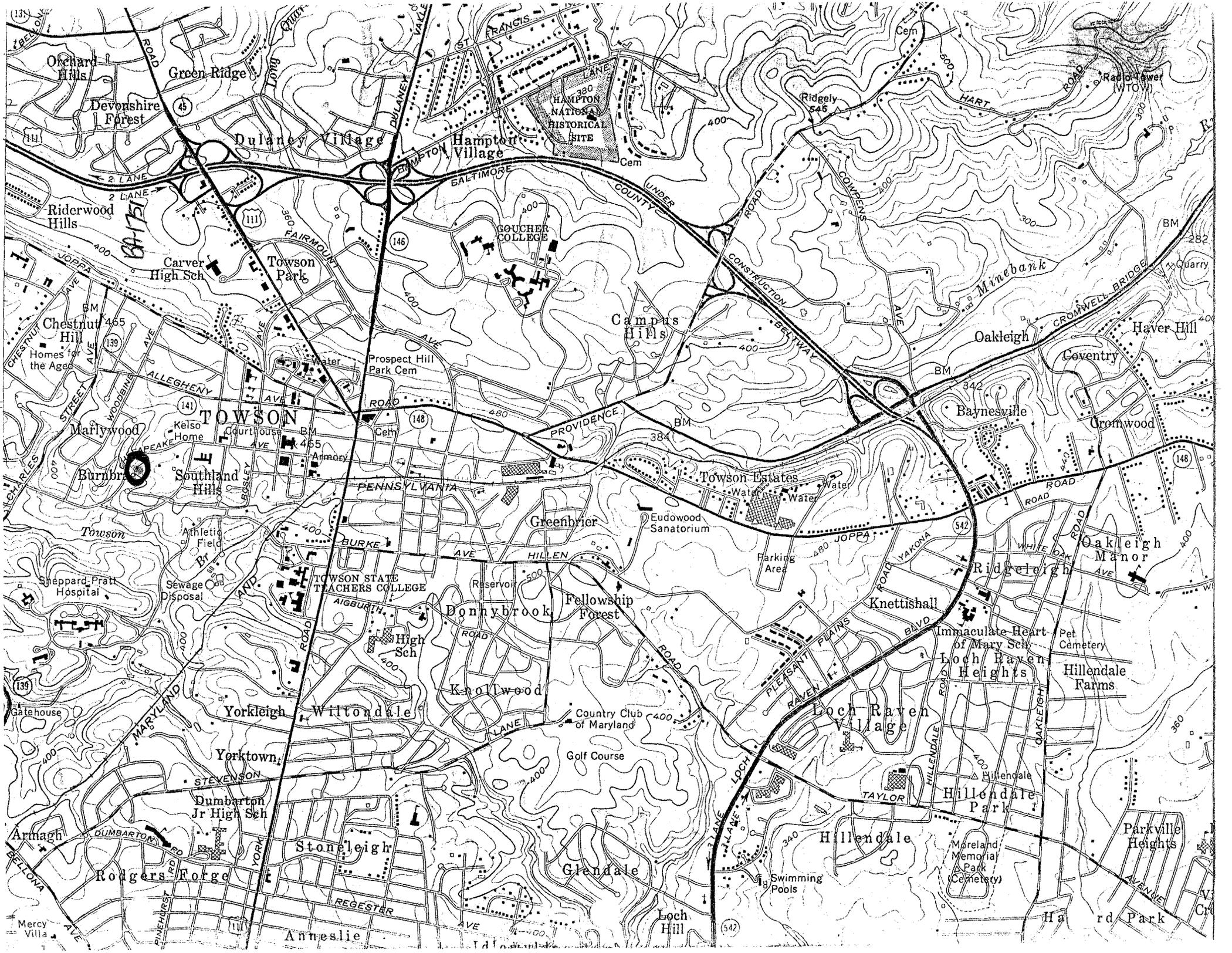
Lot adj. above

20



69

BA-1751





BA-1751

SCARBORO HOUSE
N.E. CORNER

J. CORCORAN
7/79



BA-1751

SCARBORO HSE.

W. FACADE

J. CORCORAN

7/79



BA-1751

SCARBORO HOUSE
S. FACADE

J. CORCORAN

7/79



BA-1751-A

OUTBUILDING -

SCARBORO HOUSE

N.W. CORNER

J. CORCORAN

7/79