

CAPSULE
EGYPT FARMS

Newcomers to Towson find it hard to believe that even in the 1960's there were working farms within walking distance of the center of town. It is a documented fact, however, that during most of its two-hundred year existence Towson was in fact a crossroads service center to an agrarian community.

This cluster of farm buildings which includes a beautiful post and beam bank barn is standing in the midst of townhouses and apartment complexes with the Baltimore Beltway on one side and a four lane highway on the other. It is testimony to our deep agrarian heritage and the rapidity with which we have changed our environment.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Egypt Farms

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Kenilworth Dr.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ninth

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

John L. Strickland

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Unknown

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: 5582

Folio #: 648

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-1779

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>June, 197</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In the midst of one of Towson's most densely developed areas is a cluster of farm buildings on a dwindling parcel of land which stand as reminders of the fact that until very recent times this region was an agricultural area.

The present "main house" is a modern structure which has been converted from a heavy machinery garage to a dwelling. Although the structure is modern, its design is sensitive to its surroundings and has the appearance of a much older building.

A farm house stands close to the main road and contains much early fabric.

The two story L-plan frame structure is covered with german clapboards and is topped with a gable-end roof. Each gable end is one bay wide and is vented by regular 6/6 sash windows. All windows have louvered shutters held with cast iron shutter locks.

The "ell facade" is the southwest facade which contains a "backporch" with a single story shed roof supported by square posts. There are exposed rafters in the gable ends.

The main facade is the north facade, facing the heart of the farm rather than the main road. A full single story shed-roof porch covers the three bay wide facade (the central bay being an entrance) and rests on brick piers.

The high stone foundation is seen only on this side and measures 4 feet 3 inches high.

A single interior chimney exits north of the ridge.

The building has been extended one full bay to the East by a two story addition. Although this is also covered with german clapboards, the bevel here is narrower than the main block clapboards.

The basement is full only under the main block and reflects the L-plan of the house. The uncoursed rubble walls have single windows on each end, with the east opening now blocked by the addition. A tunnel-like bulk head occupies the northwest corner of the basement. Materials are circular sawn, although there are rough-cut braces, all fixed with cut nails.

The present interior plan has a shortened center hall with flanking parlors. A central chimney serves each room.

The west parlor contains a fireplace, having a mantel with a typical curvilinear shelf 46 inches above the floor, projecting 9 inches, and pilasters. The fireplace in the east parlor has a more decorative mantel with features including Eastlake "teeth", fluted pilasters and brackets.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Other decorative features include plain but channeled mouldings, 2/2 sunken panel doors, metal box locks, and wood grain metal knobs.

The stairs leading to the story above are against the south wall of the east parlor, thus creating the shortened hall.

The second story reveals random width flooring. One bedroom is located over the first level west parlor, a north bedroom extends the length of the hall, and there is one room in the addition. The mouldings of this level are the same as below.

Circular sawn principal rafters mitered at the ridge can be seen in the attic. The original siding is visible on the gable end, being german clapboards painted white and fixed with cut nails. The roof of the east wing appears to be original, the rafter also being mitered and fixed with cut nails. As has been seen in several structures in the area ie. "Belview" (see BA # 1722) there is a swaying chimney. A possible explanation is that during construction, the chimney began off center and had to be "swayed" in order to meet the ridge of the roof.

Almost centrally located among the structures and certainly the most impressive is the tripartite bank barn. Although portions of the barn are being used as a garage, the structure has seen little alteration and contains most of its original fabric.

Board-and-batten siding covers this post and beam construction which rests on a high stone foundation and is topped with a gable-end roof. The building measures 50 feet wide, 36 feet deep, and 74 feet between the plate and sill. There is a modern addition on the east end.

The south side is the bank side. Openings include a centrally located door and louvered vents with iron bars and wrought spike hinge mounts. These openings as do all others measure $2\frac{1}{2}'$ x $2'$. The boards on this side measure 12 feet wide with 3 inch battens and are fixed with cut nails.

The gable roof was originally covered with random width butt-joined boards but is presently covered with slate shingles. One foot of the plate logs and tie beams are exposed and have finished beveled ends. Two metal ventelators with lightning rods and weather vanes rest atop the ridge on either end of the building. The weather vanes, one being a horse, the other a cow, contain a family name of "James."

The height of the fieldstone foundation measures 8 feet on the northwest corner. This foundation constitutes another story on the west and north facades.

The fenestration of the west facade is regular in the frame upper levels with a cut-away door and window in the stone first level.

The north facade is characterized by its cantilever. Three evenly placed doors constitute three bays with pairs of casements venting the inner bays. These openings measure $2\frac{1}{2}'$ x $2'$ and are framed by $3''$ x $4\frac{1}{2}''$ timbers (joined by mortise-and-trunnel). They have been augered for iron horizontal bars.

The log floor joists which extend beyond the plate to support the cantilever have been either hewn on four sides, only on the top, or undressed from the plate out. Logs measure up to 14 inches wide, and there is $8\frac{1}{2}'$ feet between the joists and the floor.

The joists rest on a sawn scarfed plate. The spaces between the joists, plate and ceiling are filled with brick and mortar.

A longitudinal summer beam is composed of three logs which have been hewn and scarfed joined. The beam measures 1 foot wide by 11 inches deep. The floor joists, which are not continuous, (with the exception of every sixth one) have been lap-joined to the beam and run off on either side in a spine-like fashion.

This first level has been divided into two main rooms. The easternmost room has been framed off to provide for various sized stalls. All stone walls have been white washed, however, the east wall has been removed to create access to the addition on that end.

Features seen in the spacious west room include a 3 inch thick timber set into the masonry wall and trunneled to accomodate pegs for hanging equipment. A cubby hole framed and fixed with cut nails was probably used as a cabinet for storing medicines, etc.

The framing on the second level is a combination of hewn and circular sawn materials. Angle braces have been dove tailed and fixed with what appear to be cut nails. Tie beams are circular sawn as are the angle braces, while the posts have been hewn. These posts measure 8 inches square.

The principal rafters appear to be mitered at the ridge and are fixed about $\frac{1}{2}$ foot below the ridge with collars. These collars are notched to fit the plate and are fixed with cut spikes on each side of the rafter.

Secondary posts form a truss, are mortise-tenon-and-trunneled, and support a purlin. This purlin is scarfed, being comprised of three logs in all.

Separating the central bays from the end bays are 47 inch high walls composed of up to 12 inch wide horizontal boards fixed with cut nails. Four ladders were incorporated into the posts above the walls, however, only one remains. These ladders are made with studs set inbetween the upper and lower bracing.

The southwest corner of this level is presently used as an office although it is reported to have originally been a grain bin.

The room measures 9' x 16' and is finished with butt-joined random width boards varying in width from 2 to 4 inches. The room is subdivided by stalls with frame partitioning having 2 foot studing.

Between the barn and the "main house" stand two outbuildings. Although these are not the only other outbuildings, they are worthy of mention.

The first is a one story gable-roof frame structure resting above the ground on brick piers. The building measures one bay on the gable end and two bays long. The walls are covered with german siding, while the roof is covered with diamond-shaped asphalt shingles. There are deep eaves with exposed rafter ends.

A pair of centrally located very tall louvered vents are on both the east and west facades. These openings measure 57 inches wide and 7 feet 6 inches high.

An off center door on the south facade is the only opening on either of the gable ends.

Sawn materials are used inside. The rafters are mitered at the ridge.

The second outbuilding is a shed roof frame structure resting on a 1 foot high stone foundation. Although the south and east sides are open, the two existing walls are also covered with german siding fixed with cut nails. The building measures 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The shed roof has 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet between the plate and sill on the north side, while the south side measures 16 feet between the eaves and the ground. There are exposed rafter ends and evidence of the exterior having once been painted white with green trim.

All circular sawn materials are seen on the interior.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1779

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 4th Quarter 19th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Newcomers to Towson find it hard to believe that even in the 1960's there were working farms within walking distance of the center of town. It is a documented fact, however, that during most of its two-hundred year existence Towson was in fact a crossroads service center to an agrarian community.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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. Owings Schultz

WAYNE L. NIELD, II

ORGANIZATION

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 EGYPT FARMS
Parcel 1122, Map 69

<u>LIBER</u>	<u>FOLIO</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>
5582	648	October 20, 1975	John L. Strickland, et al	John L. Strickland

John L. Strickland was the personal representative of the estate of Mary W. Strickland, deceased.

Beginning at the 16th line of a parcel of land by deed dated September 26, 1950 and recorded in Land Record 1886/236 conveyed by Mary W. Strickland and husband to Charles H. Steffy, Inc...Northwest 450.15 feet....Containing 5.795 acres.

922	257	January 29, 1934	Seymour O'Brien et al Trustee	Mary W. Strickland
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Seymour O'Brien, Trustee of the estate of Mary C. Worley by deed of trust dated July 8, 1915 recorded in Land Record of Baltimore City SOL 3042/396

July 8, 1925 - Mary W. Strickland formerly Mary C. Worley revoked the deed of trust.

By Circuit Court, March 31, 1932, Seymour O'Brien was appointed trustee

Comprising land from the following three deeds:

1) 113	225	July 7, 1879	Lewis Job Rider, Trustee	Mary C. Worley
2) 175	247	April 24, 1889	Mary G. Levering & husband	Mary C. Worley
3) 455	127	August 4, 1915	John D.C. Duncan, Jr. & wf	John J. Dobler et al Trustees

(1)- Lewis Job Rider, Trustee of the Edward Rider Estate
By Last Will and Testament in Will Book 3/158
Codicil

Codicil: "I give and devise to son the said Lewis Job Rider and his heirs all that farm now occupied by son Abraham Rider (except the strip taken off in my foregoing will)...should...Abraham die without leaving...children...Lewis Job Rider shall sell said farm..."

The land was sold to Mary Worley for \$10,000

Beginning...including parts of the following tracts:

- "Gotts Hope Resurveyed"
- "Regulation"
- "Hampton Estate"

Beginning at the land conveyed by Lewis Job Rider to Charles F. Pitt June 20, 1870...containing 168 acres.

- (2)- Beginning at the end of the third line of a parcel of land conveyed by deed dated October 16, 1865 and recorded in the Land Records 46/242 from Ruth C. Lynch to B.V. Richardson containing 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres.

Continuing title:

170	331	July 20, 1888	Edwin W. Levering	Mary G. Levering
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Containing 67 acres

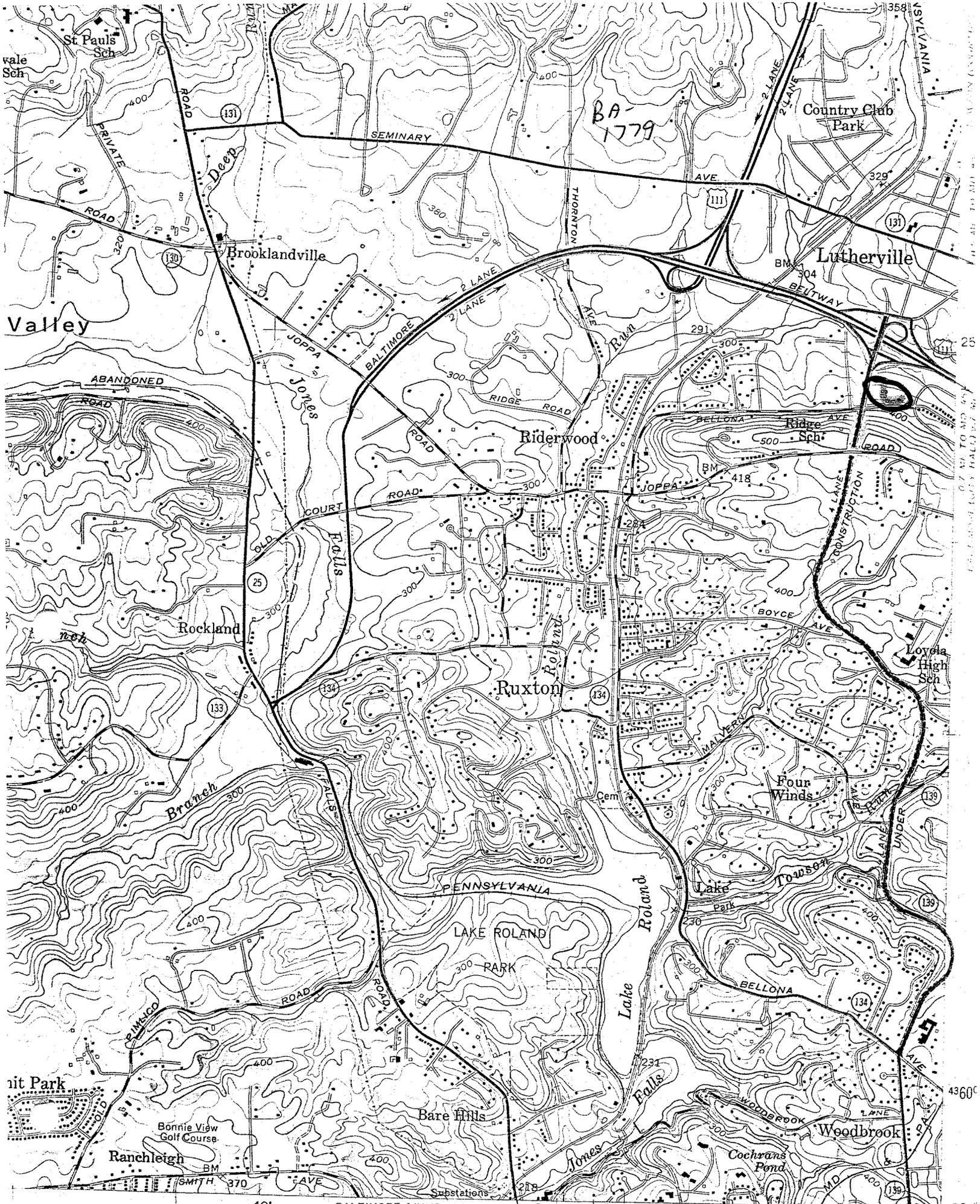
150	42	January 20, 1886	Johnsey W. Hook & wife	Edwin W. Levering
-----	----	------------------	------------------------	-------------------

- (3)- Beginning on the south side of a county road leading from Riders Switch to the ninth milestone on York Turnpike Road at a point intersected by Clark Ave.

Continuing title:

385	478	October 14, 1911	Johnanna Worley & John J. Dobler, Trustees	John D. C. Duncan, Jr.
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Trustees by Last Will and Testament of John C. Worley
Will Book 11/216



BA
1779

BALTIMORE (JUNC. U.S. 1) 5 MI.

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. - 1958-NS
MR 4867

359000m E

BALTIMORE (JUNC. U.S. 1) 4.5 MI.

76°37'30"