

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Schmuck House  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 617 York Road  
 CITY, TOWN Towson VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
 STATE Maryland COUNTY

**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 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	<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 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 E.D. Pollard Telephone #: 377-5675  
 STREET & NUMBER 7027 Kenleigh Rd.  
 CITY, TOWN Towson VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 21204

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE REGISTER OF DEEDS, ETC. Re County Courts Building Liber #: See Attachment  
 STREET & NUMBER 401 Bosley Ave. Folio #:  
 CITY, TOWN Towson STATE Maryland 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
 DATE  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
 CITY, TOWN STATE  
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

**7 DESCRIPTION**

6A-208

<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"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE <u>Summer, 1978</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

Of the several buildings which claim to be Towson's oldest it is this stone house which has the best claim to that title. The accompanying chain of title demonstrates that in the late 18th century and early 19th century the property was associated with three of Towson's major founding families, the Towson's Schmucks and Shealeys. The house claims a c. 1785 construction date which would make it part of the same association, however, this date is in no way documented. Structural analysis has failed thus far to positively identify any 18th c. fabric. Alteration and commercial renovations have left little original interior fabric. Nevertheless the exterior of the building has not changed drastically and it seems safe to say that its method of construction and style make it an early building in what is otherwise a predominantly Victorian town. There appear to be no colonial period buildings extant in Towson. The Schmuck house is one of two Federal era dwellings standing and even if it is later in date than is commonly thought it is still considerably older than the rest of the town, most of which was built in the second half of the 19th century and later.

The house fronts York Road and faces East. There is a gas station on one side of the house and a bright red fast-food outlet on the other. On the opposite side of York Road there is a twelve story office building. A twenty-five story condominium dominates the block behind it all of which has left this stone residential structure appearing quite out of place. It is a genuine relic of that time when this community was a rural crossroads town. Two of those principal roads are the boundaries of this property. As mentioned York Road (former York Turnpike) fronts the property and Joppa Road (Old Court Road) runs behind the building. This house along with several other buildings occupied one of the pie-shaped areas of land formed by the intersection of these two roads with the Dulaney Valley Road (Dulaney Valley Turnpike) and the later Allegheny Ave. The property is part of that large parcel of land owned by the Shealeys during most of the 19th century which consisted of "Molly's Industry (lot #2) and "Pearces Security to Molly's Industry" (lot #1). This house is believed to have stood on the latter tract. Records show that George Shealey acquired this land from his relative Solomon Schmuck 1808-1813. Schmuck had only owned it a short time, however, since acquiring the parcel from Phileas and William Towson in 1808. (see attached reprint of McGrain-Segal report). The McGrain-Segal report points out that the property was owned by Ezekiel Towson in 1798 and that the tax list for that year makes no indication of a building like this one being in Towson's possession. The only stone dwelling is a single story structure measuring 16' x 22'. This house is clearly two stories of original construction and the unaltered north wall measuring 56'4" long. The east end 22'2". If the building was built after Towson ownership then it is clearly not an 18th century construction. The Shealeys held this land longer than any others (c. 1800-1820), however, research on that family indicates their main homestead to have been on the site now occupied by Rutzler's Department Store.

Regardless of its origin or exact age this stone dwelling has an early character about it which is derived from its construction. This stone house has an L-plan which is formed by a main block that faces York Road and a wing which projects behind it to the South. The main block is a tall two stories with an attic. It is three bays wide and two deep. The wing is two stories

**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

While the dates of this house are as yet uncertain there is little doubt that it is contemporary with the Bowen House and that the two together are the oldest structures standing in Towson, each being at least 150 years old. It is built of local stone and such features as its large fireplaces, carved paneling and rather formal fenestration give the building its early character.

The old stone house stands on land which was owned by the Towsons, Schmucks, and Shealeys both before and after its erection. The Towsons owned this land until 1803 when it was acquired by Solomon Schmuck. Schmuck only owned it a short time, however, before selling to George Shealey whose family owned the adjoining land for most of the rest of the century. All three of these families were related through marriage, however, it has not been proven which, if any, of them built this house or lived in it. It seems safe, however, to see the building as having an association with one of Towson's founding families.

**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** WAYNE L. NIELD, II  
NAME / TITLE HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET &amp; 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

SCHMUCK HOUSE

While the dates of this house are as yet uncertain there is little doubt that it is contemporary with the Bowen House and that the two together are the oldest structures standing in Towson, each being at least 150 years old. It is built of local stone and such features as its large fireplaces, carved paneling and rather formal fenestration give the building its early character.

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in height but is considerably shorter than the main block (c. 4' difference in height of eaves). It is a long two bays in length (equivalent of four normal bays) and two bays wide. It is important to realize that the wing is not an addition as is evidenced by the continuous stone work on the north facade.

Both portions of the building are covered by gable-end roofs. The main roof of the main block has two pedimented dormers on the east facade and a large shed roofed dormer on the west facade (added). A plain brick cap identifies an interior chimney on the north end. The wing has one like it on its west end. A later flue chimney is located in the northwest corner of the main block.

Although alterations have taken place the original fenestration was regular. There are 6/6 sash windows which have stone flat arches.

Alterations and the layout of the building require a facade-by-facade description:

#### East Facade-

This is the main or street facade. Use of this building for commercial purposes has left it with a modern shop front on the first level which features two bay-type display windows. In its original state, however, the first level was defined by a centrally located entrance flanked on either side by extremely large windows with openings 46" wide and 8'4" high. Three smaller windows are symmetrically placed above on the second floor. Two dormers which may be later additions disrupt the symmetry of the tripartite fenestration. The centrally located entrance had a transom measuring 20" x 3'0" and the door itself occupies a 6' x 3½' opening. The opening is recessed 22" to accommodate a wide frame with raised rectangular panels similar to those of the interior doorway between the parlor and dining room.

#### North Facade-

The north facade contains evidence of the fact that this building is an individual in type. There is no break in the facades of the main block and the south wing and the two sections in places share some of the longer stones. Because the main block is higher than the south wing and because one is oriented on a horizontal axis and the other on a vertical, the end result is visually interesting. The door which penetrates the main block on this side is an alteration (interior access to the second floor removed and there is no stone arch above doorway) and so the entire north side of the main block was without windows and doors originally. There is not even a fanlight in the gable-end like that of the South. This feature may be seen as relative to both the interior chimney on this end and winter weather conditions. There are four windows in the wing, however, two of which light the upstairs and two more light the dining room and kitchen below. Two stone arches just a few inches above the black top of the adjoining parking lot as well as an early photograph prove that the wing had semi-above ground basement windows.

It was observed on this facade that the windows have wooden sills and that the frames are joined by mortise-and-tenon with dowels.

It was also first noticed on this side that the first floor windows of the entire building contain a piece of wood embeded in the mortar between the stones a few inches off of the lower right corner. This feature is supposed to be a remnant of a shutter fixture. A cut nail was removed from one of these fixtures on the easternmost window of this facade.

#### South Facade-

This facade is characteristic of a Southern exposure insofar as it contains more windows than the North and a porch as well.

On the main block, in addition to the expected two windows down and two above, there is a fanlight window venting the gable-end and lighting the attic. (The windows of the first level have been blocked in).

A porch covers the entire first story of the wing and occupies the ell of the T-plan. It is enclosed by clapboards that are perceived as an alteration.

There is an original exterior entrance to the basement on this side which is beneath the porch. This door contains a lintel made of vertically sawn wood decorated

with charrfers.

Three and one half feet of the basement are above ground on this side and three pane casement windows supply light.

West Facade-

The two bay West end of the wing is windowless except for one window in the south bay of the upper story. There is a centrally located interior end chimney with a straight brick cap.

Interior-

The alterations and amount of automotive equipment, etc. stored in this building have made an understanding of the original interior difficult at best.

The original plan provides for a full basement beneath the west wing. White-washed joists and a cooking fireplace suggest that these lower rooms constituted a liveable area.

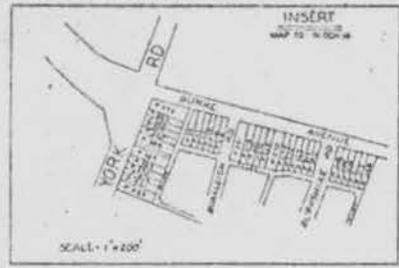
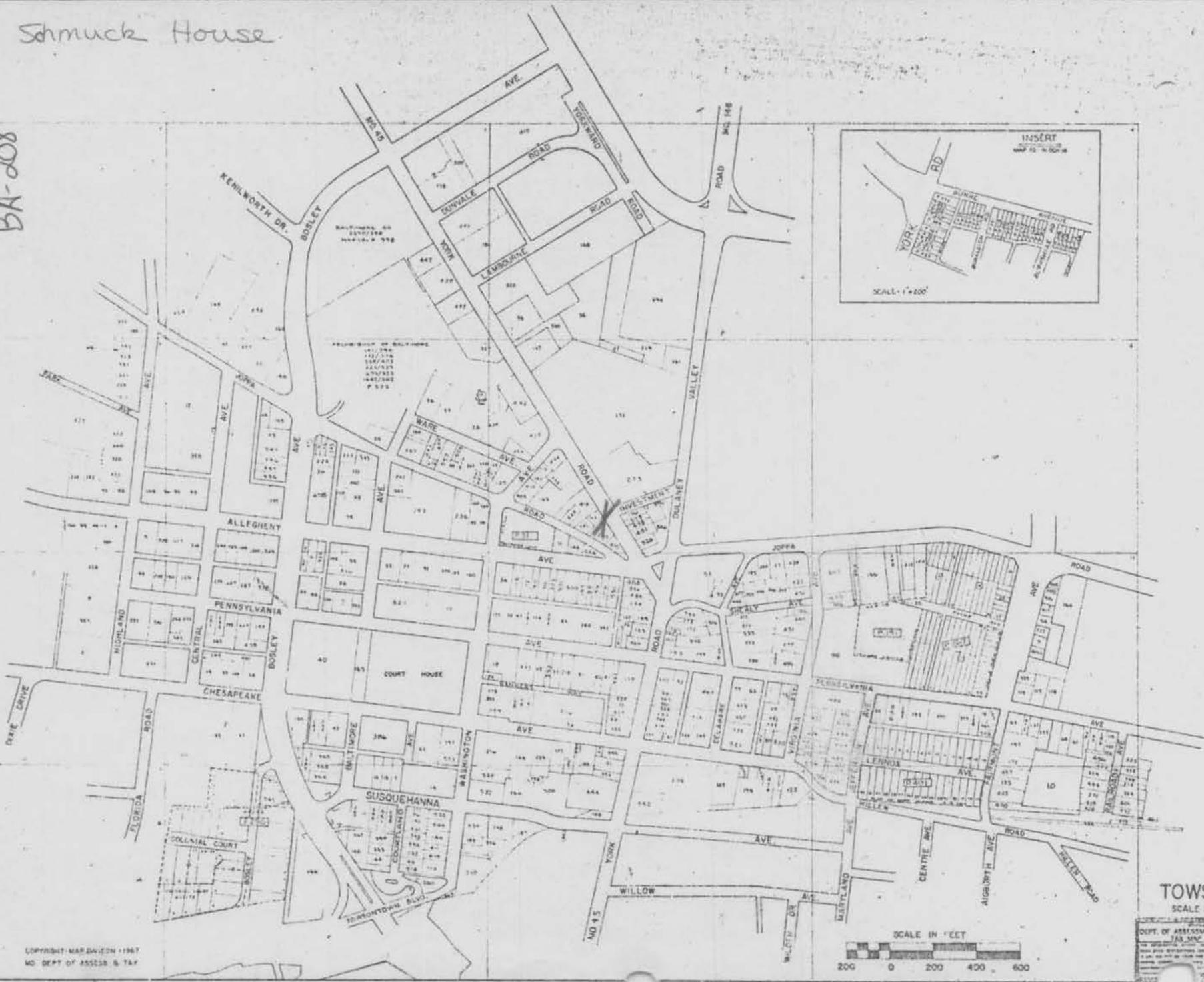
The main level consisted of a formal parlor, a dining area and kitchen (a second large fireplace suggests this possibility).

The third level was perhaps a living area originally (it contains knee walls), it has certainly been such since the early part of this century.

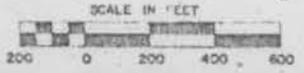


Schmuck House

BA-208



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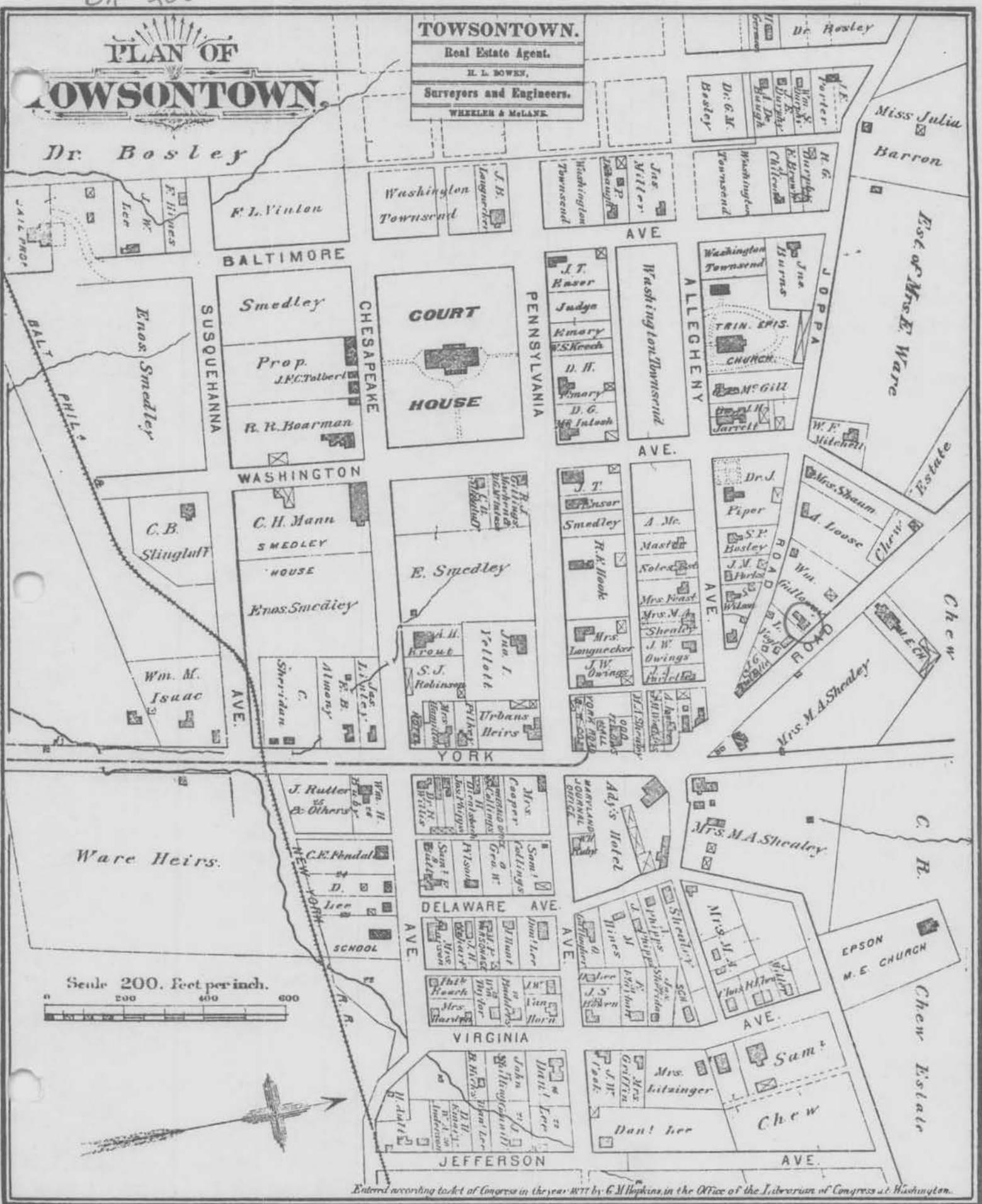


**TOWSON**  
 SCALE 1" = 200'  
 DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION  
 TAX MAP DIVISION

MAP NO.  
 70A

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

**PLAN OF  
 TOWSONTOWN.**



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



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SCHMUCK HSE  
S.E. CORNER

W. NIELD

WINTER 77-78



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SCHMUCK HSE  
N. E. CORNER

W. NIELT  
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