

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**BA-2180**  
**Van Bokkelen Hall**  
**7900 York Road**  
**Towson, Baltimore County**  
**1933**  
**Public**

Constructed in 1933, Van Bokkelen Hall is one of the original academic buildings for Towson University. Currently, it houses the departments of Communication Sciences and Disorders, and Mass Communication and Communication Studies. The county educational system benefited from the 1866 organization of the State Normal School, now known as Towson University, which was established by an act of Assembly in 1865. The school, devoted to the education of teachers for public schools, was originally located in Baltimore City. It moved to Towson in 1915. In 1935, the institution changed names, becoming the Maryland State Teachers College at Towson. The school officially became Towson State University in 1963 and in 1997, its name was once again changed to Towson University. Van Bokkelen Hall is named for Reverend Libertus Van Bokkelen, who served as the State Superintendent of Public Education from 1864 to 1867.

Van Bokkelen Hall is representative of the Tudor Revival-style of architecture. It is located on the 328-acre campus of Towson University and is surrounded by other academic buildings. Rising two stories in height and stretching eleven bays in width, the brick building is laid in Flemish bond with a hipped roof of slate tiles. A canted gable bay delineates the central bay. The sides of the canted bay each hold a ten-light, single-leaf door with four-light transoms. The central portion of the bay is defined at the first story by a 30-light fixed window with a fanlight and five-light sidelights, all of which is set within a patterned stone surround. Sixteen pairs of 6/6 vinyl replacement windows with one-light transoms pierce the façade or east elevation. Paired 4/4 vinyl replacement windows, also with one-light transoms, mark the endmost bays. All of the windows have soldier lintels and stone sills. Six brick buttresses break the façade into seven vertical sections, while a stone water table and stringcourse divide the building horizontally. The two buttresses defining the central bay have ball finials that project above the cornice. A hipped roof with slate tiles covers the school building. The north and south elevations each feature an imposing brick chimney of Flemish bond with shoulders and elaborately corbeled caps.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2180

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Van Bokkelen Hall

other

## 2. Location

street and number 7900 York Road \_\_ not for publication

city, town Towson \_\_ vicinity

county Baltimore County

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name State of Maryland, University of Maryland System, Towson University Facilities Management Department

street and number 8000 York Road telephone Not Available

city, town Towson state MD zip code 21252

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 8199 folio 567

city, town Towson tax map 70 tax parcel 582 tax ID number 0920551583

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District  
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Recorded by HABS/HAER  
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing <input type="checkbox"/> Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
				1

---

## 7. Description

---

Inventory No. BA-2180

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

---

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed in 1933, Van Bokkelen Hall is representative of the Tudor Revival-style of architecture. It is located on the 328-acre campus of Towson University and is surrounded by other academic buildings. Rising two stories in height and stretching eleven bays in width, the brick building is laid in Flemish bond with a hipped roof of slate tiles. A canted gable bay delineates the central bay. The sides of the canted bay each hold a ten-light, single-leaf door with four-light transoms. The central portion of the bay is defined at the first story by a 30-light fixed window with a fanlight and five-light sidelights, all of which is set within a patterned stone surround. Sixteen pairs of 6/6 vinyl replacement windows with one-light transoms pierce the façade or east elevation. Paired 4/4 vinyl replacement windows, also with one-light transoms, mark the endmost bays. All of the windows have soldier lintels and stone sills. Six brick buttresses break the façade into seven vertical sections, while a stone water table and stringcourse divide the building horizontally. The two buttresses defining the central bay have ball finials that project above the cornice. A hipped roof with slate tiles covers the school building. The north and south elevations each feature an imposing brick chimney of Flemish bond with shoulders and elaborately corbeled caps.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2180

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

<b>Specific dates</b>	1933	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	1933		

Evaluation for:

National Register       Maryland Register       not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Constructed in 1933, Van Bokkelen Hall is one of the original academic buildings for Towson University. Currently, it houses the departments of Communication Sciences and Disorders, and Mass Communication and Communication Studies. The county educational system benefited from the 1866 organization of the State Normal School, now known as Towson University, which was established by an act of Assembly in 1865. The school, devoted to the education of teachers for public schools, was originally located in Baltimore City. It moved to Towson in 1915. In 1935, the institution changed names, becoming the Maryland State Teachers College at Towson. The school officially became Towson State University in 1963 and in 1997, its name was once again changed to Towson University.

Van Bokkelen Hall is named for Reverend Libertus Van Bokkelen, who served as the State Superintendent of Public Education from 1864 to 1867. Reverend Libertus Van Bokkelen (1815-1889) was born in New York and served as an educator there before coming to Maryland. He received his holy orders from the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1842 and was assigned as pastor of St. Timothy's Protestant Episcopal Church (BA-00001) in Catonsville in 1845. Not only was Rev. Van Bokkelen active in the parish in Catonsville, but he assumed responsibility for Grace Church in Elkridge and St. Peter's in Ellicott City. He also served as the president of St. John's College in Annapolis and of an agricultural school in Bladensburg.<sup>1</sup> In 1864, he was appointed as the Superintendent of Public Education for Maryland, and in this role was responsible for establishing the educational system for the entire state. As a staunch abolitionist, Van Bokkelen used his position to urge the Maryland Legislature to allocate money for the construction of schools for African-Americans.<sup>2</sup> He resigned from his position with the church in 1871, moving back to New York where he died in 1889.

<sup>1</sup> Yvette Ridenour, *The Light of Truth: A History of Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church 1844-1994*, (Catonsville, MD: Privately Published, 1994), p. 23.  
<sup>2</sup> Ridenour, p. 27.

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

Inventory No. BA-2180

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.  
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
*Map of Baltimore County.* Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.  
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.  
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.
- 

## 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of surveyed property .50 Acre  
Acreage of historical setting Unknown  
Quadrangle name Towson Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Van Bokkelen Hall, located at 7900 York Road, is currently part of Towson University in Towson. It has been associated with this location since its construction in 1933. It is located on Tax Map 70, Parcel 582.

---

## 11. Form Prepared by

---

name/title	R. Weidlich, A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 29, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

---

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



USGS Quad: TOWSON  
Scale: 1:24,000



BA-2181  
WARD DRIVE  
TOWSON  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-1845  
6609 OSLER ROAD  
BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2180  
7000 YORK ROAD  
TOWSON  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2488  
1000 REBESTEN AVENUE  
BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2487  
6508 CRESTWOOD ROAD  
BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BALTIMORE WEST  
5862 1/2 SW

39° 22' 30" 76° 37' 30" 910 000 FEET BALTIMORE (JUNC. U.S.) 4.4 MI. 363 35'

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland  
Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

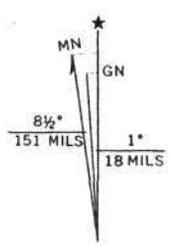
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944  
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only  
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from  
aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not  
field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA-2180

VAN BOKKELEN HALL

7900 YORK ROAD

TOWSON

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

APRIL 2001

MD SHPO

SOUTHEAST CORNER

1 OF 3



BA-2180

VAN BOKKELEN HALL

7900 YORK ROAD

TOWSON

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

APRIL 2001

MD SHPO

NORTHWEST CORNER

2 OF 3



BA-2180

VAN BOKKELEN HALL

7900 YORK ROAD

TOWSON

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

APRIL 2001

MD SHPO

SOUTHWEST CORNER

3 OF 3

BA- 2180

**VAN BOKKELEN HALL** - 1933 - 7900 York Road (rear of Stephens Hall, Towson). Brick, two-story, hip-roofed, classroom in Georgian Revival, located to the west of Stephens Hall. Originally built as a model elementary school. Designed by Smith and May, architects. The east facade retains its classical character; some rear (west) windows have been bricked up and the north end has been reworked with contemporary plate-glass additions. Named for the Rev. Libertus Van Bokkelen, former rector of St. Timothy's Church, Catonsville, and first State Superintendent of Public Instruction (under the constitution of 1864-1867).

BA-2177  
three  
BA-2181

TOWSON

BA-1547  
BA-1543  
BA-1545  
BA-1546  
BA-1544

TALL SCH.

BA-2181A

INF.

BA-2181  
GLEN  
ESK

PRETTYMAN  
HALL  
WMS. DORM.

RECENT

WMS. DORM.

PRIVATE ROAD

HT. PT.  
BA-2178

DINING  
HALL

BA-2177

RICHMOND  
HALL  
NEWELL HALL

BA-2179

YORK ROAD

SON STATE COLLEGE

LIBRARY

GYM.

VAN  
BOKKELEN  
HALL

BA-2180

EL. BLDG.

BA-2176

ADMSTN. BLDG.  
STEPHENS  
HALL



Scale 200 FT = 1 IN.  
HISTORIC SITES AT  
TOWSON STATE COLLEGE

H