

CAPSULE SUMMARY

11509 Eastern Avenue
BA-2821

The house at 11509 Eastern Avenue was constructed in the latter part of the 19th century by the Townsend family, who had owned the property for several years prior. The Townsends were an important early family, at one time holding in excess of 2500 acres of land on the Back River and Middle River necks. Wilson Townsend (b.1829) served as an agent for the railroad at Stemmers Run Station, and Postmaster for the Rossville P.O. in the Essex-Middle River area. He was elected as a democrat to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1877, and became active in the temperance movement. His son, Walter Townsend was elected as a Delegate in 1886 and eventually became a state senator. According to local history, he is "sometimes known as the father of the Democratic Party in Eastern Baltimore County." In 1909, the improved property passed from Walter R. Townsend to John A. Christ, whose family owned the property until 1936. Since that time, the Asher family has owned the house.

The house at 11509 Eastern Avenue is two-stories, three bays wide, and designed in the Gothic Revival style. Set on a brick pier foundation with concrete block in-fill, the dwelling is clad in asbestos shingles. The center bay of the symmetrical facade is marked with the main entry, now covered with a Colonial-Revival style, pedimented portico, and with a cross gable within the roof. Originally L-shaped in plan, the form of the house has been modified with three one-story, wood frame additions, two shed roof additions at the southeast elevation, one of which is a porch, and a gable roof addition with a concrete block foundation.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. BA-2821

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name _____

common/other name _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 11509 Eastern Avenue not for publication _____
city or town Baltimore vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD
county Baltimore code 005 zip code 21220

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing		Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>		buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>		Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____
No X

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Solid: Brick pier w/concrete in-fill

roof Gable: Asphalt Shingles

walls Wood Frame: Asbestos Shingles

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
11509 Eastern Avenue
Baltimore County, Maryland

Inventory No. BA-2821
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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance ca. 1885-present

Significant Dates 1885-1900

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Baltimore County Land Records, Recorder of Deeds, Baltimore County, Towson, Maryland.

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property 80,703 Square Feet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property at 11509 Eastern Avenue is designate as Parcel 25 as indicated on Tax Map 91, Grid 3.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property at 11509 Eastern Avenue has been historically associated with Parcel 25 since the original construction of the house.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Andrea Bakewell Lowery, Architectural Historian
organization Traceries date August 18, 1997
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

=====
12. Property Owner
=====

name Suzanne C., David A. and Rena D. Asher
street & number 11509 Eastern Ave. telephone _____
city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21220
=====

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. BA-2821

Section 7 Page 1

11509 Eastern Avenue
name of property
Baltimore County, MD
county and state

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The house at 11509 Eastern Avenue is sited opposite the intersection of Eastern Avenue and Lariat Road. The lot is bounded at the rear by a dense wooded area. Constructed circa 1885-1895, the two-story, three-bay, wood frame house is Gothic Revival-style in form. Set on a brick pier foundation with concrete block in-fill, the dwelling is clad in asbestos shingles. The center bay of the symmetrical facade is marked with the main entry, now covered with a Colonial Revival-style, pedimented portico, and with a cross gable within the roof. The cross gable roof retains its cornice returns. Originally L-shaped in plan, the form of the house has been modified with three one-story, wood frame additions, two shed roof additions at the southeast elevation, one of which is a porch, and a gable roof addition with a concrete block foundation at the northeast elevation. An interior concrete block chimney rises above the rear slope of the gable roof addition. Many of the original windows have been replaced with 6/6 aluminum windows.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The northwest elevation, the facade of the building, comprises the original two-story, three-bay facade of the house and a one-story, side gable addition at the northeast. The main block of the house is marked at the center of the first story with a single-leaf, paneled door with arched lights. The central entry is emphasized by the addition of a Colonial Revival-style portico with metal Tuscan columns and a pediment. To either side of the door is a 6/6 aluminum window. The first story of the addition is pierced by two 6/6 aluminum windows. The original three-bay composition of the house is reinforced at the second story with a 6/6 aluminum window in each bay.

The two-story portion of the southwest elevation of the house is two bays wide, one bay in the gable end wall and one bay in the rear ell. A one-story shed roof screened porch extends to the south. Within the two-story portion of the house a 6/6 aluminum window marks each of the two bays at both the first and second stories.

The western end of the first story of the rear (southeast) elevation is covered by a one-story, screened porch supported by posts with carved brackets. Three single-leaf doors, two panel-and-light and one flush, are located within the first story at this elevation. Also within the first story are three 3/1 windows and a 6/6 aluminum window. The second story with a single

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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=====
6/6 aluminum window.

Much of the original first story at the northeast elevation has been obscured by the one-story additions. Two 3/1 windows dating from the construction of the shed roof addition remain in place at the first story. A contemporary octagonal aluminum lunette has been inserted in the rear wall of the ell at this elevation.

OUTBUILDINGS:

Directly behind the house is a wood frame shed dating from the 1930s. The shed is set on a concrete foundation, and the wood frame walls are clad with asbestos shingles. An asphalt shingle gable roof covers the shed.

To the east of the house is a wood frame shed dating from the 1940s. The shed, set on concrete piers, is clad in vertical board siding. The gable asphalt shingle roof is supported by rafters with exposed carved ends and pierced at the ridge by a ventilator.

A panel-and-light door provides access at the southwest elevation, and the side walls are pierced by 6-light awning windows.

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Baltimore County, MD
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The house at 11509 Eastern Avenue was constructed in the latter part of the 19th century by the Townsend family, who had owned the property for several years prior. In 1909, the improved property passed from Walter R. Townsend to John A. Christ, whose family owned the property until 1936. Since that time, the Asher family has owned the house.

The Townsends were an important early family, at one time holding in excess of 2500 acres of land on the Back River and Middle River necks. Wilson Townsend (b.1829) was considered one of the most important men of his time in Baltimore County. As a farmer in 1857, he furnished railroad ties to the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore (PW&B) Railroad. He served as an agent for the railroad at Stemmers Run Station, and Postmaster for the Rossville P.O. in the Essex-Middle River area. He was elected as a democrat to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1877, and became active in the temperance movement. His son, Walter Townsend, became a lawyer after being elected to the bar in 1881. He was elected as a Delegate in 1886 and eventually became a state senator. According to local history, he is "sometimes known as the father of the Democratic Party in Eastern Baltimore County."

This house provides a good example of the Gothic Revival style as practiced in rural Baltimore County. Unlike its high-style urban counter parts, this vernacular house relied entirely on its form, a two-story three bay structure with a cross gable marking the center bay, to relay its ties to the Gothic Revival style. Typical of many rural vernacular houses, this house is not ornamented with any of the detailing commonly associated with the style.

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National Register Evaluation:

The house at 11509 Eastern Avenue is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the dwelling and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of the Gothic Revival style, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility recommended _____	Not Recommended <u>X</u>
Comments: _____ _____ _____	
Review, OPS: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>11/19/97</u>
Reviewer, NR Program: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>3/17/00</u>

[Handwritten mark]

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and Community
Planning

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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Chain of Title:

- March 6, 1871: Thales A. Linthicum, trustee for Wilson
Townsend to Mary L. Townsend
Will Records of Baltimore County
Liber BWA 10 Folio 57
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber EHA 71 Folio 222
- December 18, 1895: Mary L. Townsend, widow to Peter Kinner
3 acres with building
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber LMB 214 Folio 396
- April 3, 1909: Abram T. Street, Sheriff to Walter R. Townsend
Execution issued December 11, 1908 in case of
Walter R. Townsend versus Peter Kinner,
sheriff assigned to sell property at public
sale
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 341 Folio 269
- April 10, 1909: Walter R. Townsend to John A. Christ
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber WPC 340 Folio 587
- February 4, 1915: Margaret Christ, widow of John A. Christ to
Henry O. Christ
Part of property
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber WPC 439 Folio 416
- March 2, 1936: Henry O. and Catherine Christ to William R. and
Suzanne Asher
Asher leased property for 99 years to William
Hanod
Land Records of Baltimore County (Lease)
Liber GLB 2586 Folio 301
Land Records of Baltimore County (Deed)
Liber CWB Jr. 973 Folio 58

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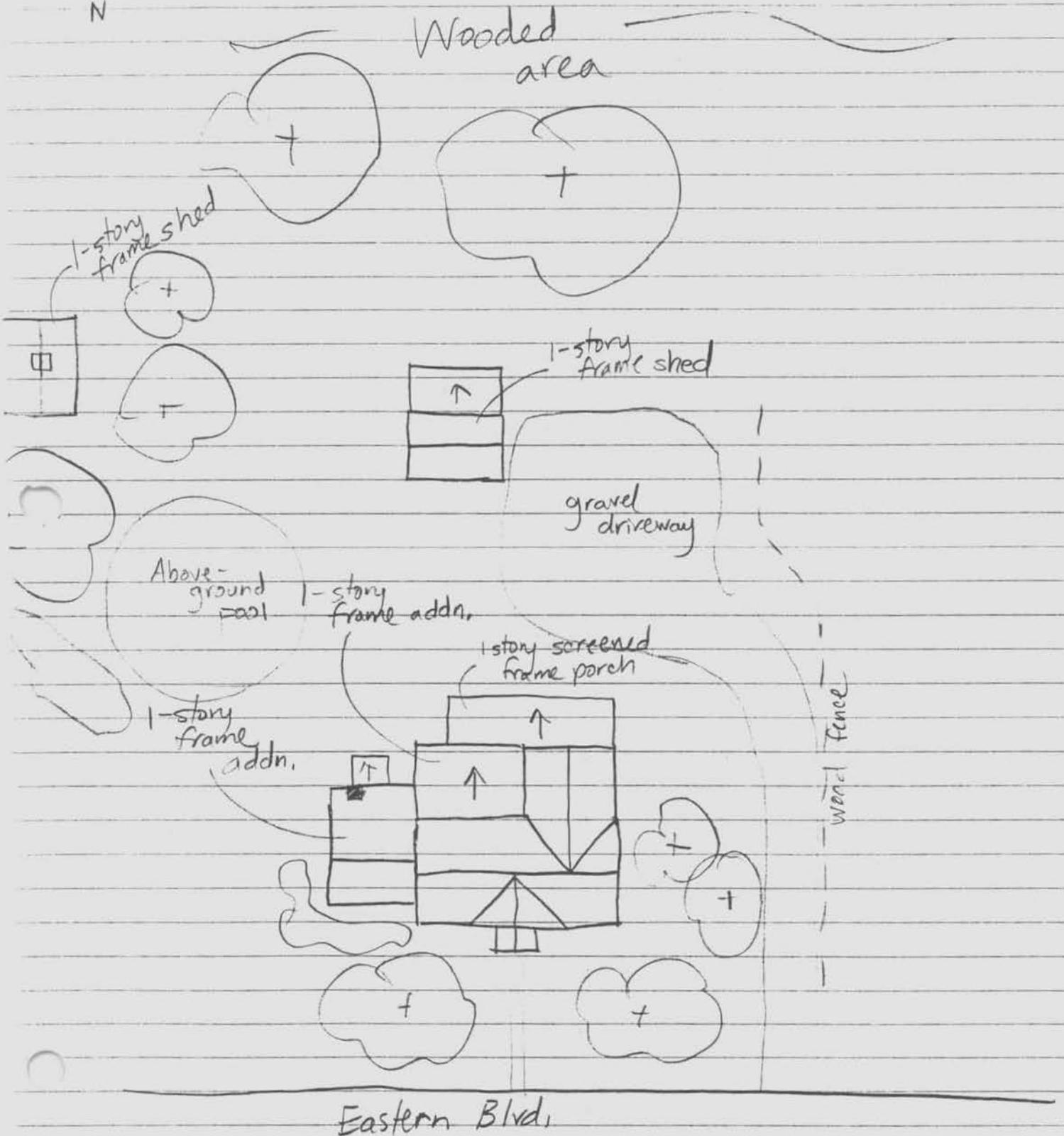
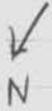
=====

June 20, 1984: Suzanne C. Asher to Suzanne C., David A. and
 Rena D. Asher
 Land to convey when she dies
 Land Records of Baltimore County
 Liber EHK Jr. 6082 Folio 228

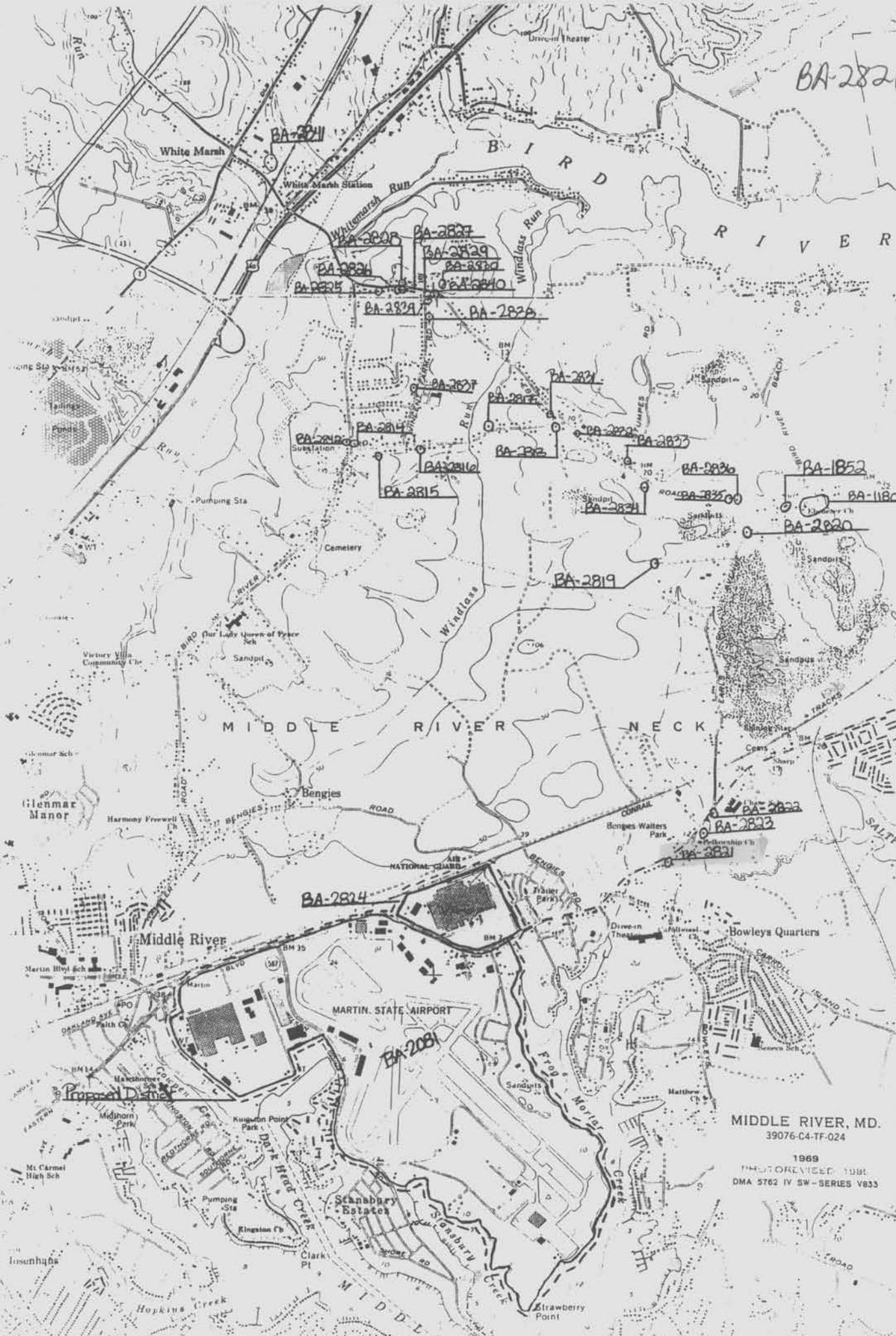
Sketch MAP

BA-2821

11509 Eastern Ave.
Baltimore, MD Baltimore County



BA-2821



MIDDLE RIVER, MD.
39076-C4-TF-024

1969
PHOTOREPRODUCED 1981
DMA 5762 IV SW-SERIES V833



BA-2821
11509 EASTERN AVE,
BALTIMORE, MD
TRACERIES
JULY 1997
MARYLAND SHPO
NW ELEVATION
1 OF 6



BA-2821

11509 EASTERN AVE.

BALTIMORE, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST CORNER

2 OF 6



BA-2821

11509 EASTERN AVE,
BALTIMORE, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

SE ELEVATION

3 OF 6



BA-2821

11509 EASTERN AVE.

BALTIMORE, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

NE ELEVATION

4 OF 6

BALTIMORE, MD
11509 EASTERN AVE.

BA-2821



BA-2821

11509 EASTERN AVE.

BALTIMORE, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

SHED - SOUTH CORNER

5 OF 6



BA-2821

11509 EASTERN AVE.

BALTIMORE, MD

TRACERIES

JULY 1997

MARYLAND SHPO

SHED - WEST CORNER

6 OF 6