

**Name/Address:** House, 1426 Railroad Avenue  
**Construction Date:** ca. 1877-1898  
**Town/Vicinity:** Lutherville  
**County:** Baltimore County  
**Access:** Private

**Summary Description:**

The house at 1426 Railroad Avenue is a modest two-story frame house built between 1877 and 1898. It is one of several houses in a small historically African-American community located directly across the Northern Central Railroad tracks from Lutherville. Little information has come to light about the relationship of this African-American community to the larger community of Lutherville. Number 1426 Railroad Avenue is a two-story, three-bay-wide, frame, side-gabled house. The single pile, single family dwelling has a central, corbeled-cap, stuccoed brick chimney. There are 1/1 wood sash windows and a single-leaf door. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles and the house is sided in wood shingles. Though the foundation is not visible, the house is probably supported on a solid rubblestone foundation like neighboring houses.

**Statement of Significance:**

Map evidence shows two houses on Railroad Avenue northeast of this house ca. 1877. This modest house appears to date to the last quarter of the nineteenth century. By 1898, all of the houses on this street appear on the Bromley Atlas (1898), indicating that this house was constructed by that time. The houses along Railroad Avenue historically belonged to members of a small African-American community located directly across the Northern Central Railroad tracks from Lutherville. Lutherville was founded as a suburb of Baltimore in 1852. It was centered around the Female Seminary and the Lutheran church, hence the name. Most of the high-style mid-nineteenth century architecture of Lutherville constitutes the Lutherville National Register Historic District (MHT BA-2211); however, these modest houses are excluded from the district boundaries. Little information has come to light about the relationship of this African-American community to the larger community of Lutherville. More than half of the houses that once stood along Railroad Avenue have been destroyed, and all extant houses have been altered in the twentieth century. This house is not known to have been associated with people or events significant to local, state, or national history, nor is it a well-preserved or intact example of its type or period; Therefore, 1426 Railroad Avenue does not appear to satisfy the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. BA-2882

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic House, 1426 Railroad Avenue, Lutherville

and/or common same

## 2. Location

street & number 1426 Railroad Avenue

not for publication

city, town Lutherville

vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland

county Baltimore

## 3. Classification

### Category

- district  
 building(s)  
 structure  
 site  
 object

### Ownership

- public  
 private  
 both

### Public Acquisition

- in process  
 being considered  
 not applicable

### Status

- occupied  
 unoccupied  
 work in progress

### Accessible

- yes: restricted  
 yes: unrestricted  
 no

### Present Use

- agriculture  
 commercial  
 educational  
 entertainment  
 government  
 industrial  
 military

- museum  
 park  
 private residence  
 religious  
 scientific  
 transportation  
 other:

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

name Ronald Alessi

street & number 30 Oakway Road

telephone no.:

city, town Lutherville

state and zip code MD 21093-4239

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Maryland Department of Real Estate and Taxation

liber 12639

street & number accessed online at <<http://www.DAT.state.md.us>>

folio 300

city, town

state

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Cultural Resources Investigations for Proposed Construction of Double Track, North Half, Central Light Rail, Baltimore & Baltimore Co., MD

date 1999

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

federal  state  county  local

city, town Crownsville

state MD

## 7. Description

Survey No. BA-2882

### Condition

- excellent  
 good  
 fair

- deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

- unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

- original site  
 moved      date of move

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

### Summary

The house at 1426 Railroad Avenue is a modest two-story frame house built between 1877 and 1898. It is one of several houses in a small historically African-American community located directly across the Northern Central Railroad tracks from Lutherville. Little information has come to light about the relationship of this African-American community to the larger community of Lutherville.

### General Description

Number 1426 Railroad Avenue is a two-story, three-bay-wide, frame, side-gabled house. The single pile, single family dwelling has a central, corbeled-cap, stuccoed brick chimney. There are 1/1 wood sash windows and a single-leaf door. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles and the house is sided in wood shingles. Though the foundation is not visible, the house is probably supported on a solid rubblestone foundation like neighboring houses.

Map evidence shows two houses on Railroad Avenue northeast of this house ca. 1877. This modest house appears to date to the last quarter of the nineteenth century. By 1898, all of the houses on this street appear on the Bromley Atlas (1898), indicating that this house was constructed by that time.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. BA-2882

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"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	

Specific dates: 1877-1898

Builder/Architect: Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G  
 Level of Significance: national state local

### Statement of Significance

Map evidence shows two houses on Railroad Avenue northeast of this house ca. 1877. This modest house appears to date to the last quarter of the nineteenth century. By 1898, all of the houses on this street appear on the Bromley Atlas (1898), indicating that this house was constructed by that time. The houses along Railroad Avenue historically belonged to members of a small African-American community located directly across the Northern Central Railroad tracks from Lutherville. Lutherville was founded as a suburb of Baltimore in 1852. It was centered around the Female Seminary and the Lutheran church, hence the name. Most of the high-style mid-nineteenth century architecture of Lutherville constitutes the Lutherville National Register Historic District (MHT BA-2211); however, these modest houses are excluded from the district boundaries. Little information has come to light about the relationship of this African-American community to the larger community of Lutherville. More than half of the houses that once stood along Railroad Avenue have been destroyed, and all extant houses have been altered in the twentieth century. This house is not known to have been associated with people or events significant to local, state, or national history, nor is it a well-preserved or intact example of its type or period; Therefore, 1426 Railroad Avenue does not appear to satisfy the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

### History

Drs. John Gottlieb Morris and Benjamin Kurtze, Lutheran clergymen, and Charles Augustus Morris, founded Lutherville in 1852. The village was named for Martin Luther; development was focused east of the Northern Central Railway tracks, where the residential plan was centered on the Lutheran Church. In 1853 the Female Seminary was founded on the hill overlooking the Northern Central tracks. The railroad enabled the development of this mid-nineteenth-century suburban community into a popular summer retreat and eventually a year round community. Though there were free blacks in Baltimore County prior to the Civil War, no information was located about this particular community. Only after the Civil War is there evidence of the presence African-Americans living freely in the area. What appears to have been a traditionally African American community developed along Railroad Avenue on the southwest side of the railroad tracks just southwest of the center of Lutherville.

The 1877 Hopkins Atlas depicts two houses located along the railroad tracks just south of Seminary Avenue. The property owner is noted as Samuel Appold, who owned a triangular shaped parcel bounded by the tracks, Seminary Avenue, and the land of John T. Vinson. The two houses may correspond to BA-2885 and BA-2886. By 1898, a row of five house was in place along the tracks, and by 1915, ten houses were depicted fronting the railroad south of Seminary Avenue. The property was located northeast of the coal yard of W.W. Boyce.

Most of the high-style mid-nineteenth century architecture of Lutherville constitutes the Lutherville National Register Historic District (MHT BA-2211); however, these modest houses are excluded from the district boundaries. They were built after the initial development of Lutherville, and represent a small but homogenous community at the fringes of a larger and equally homogenous community. Little information has come to light about the relationship of this African-American community to the larger community of Lutherville. More than half of the houses that once stood along Railroad Avenue have been destroyed, and those that are left have been altered in the mid- and late twentieth century. The neighborhood has remained African-American, though only five houses of the ten depicted in 1915 are still standing.

**8. Significance** (Continuation)

Survey No. BA-2882

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria: \_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D

Considerations: \_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D \_\_\_E \_\_\_F \_\_\_G \_\_\_None

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, NR Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA-2882

---

- Bromley, G.W. & Company  
1898 *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* G.W. Bromley & Co., Philadelphia. Copy on File, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD.  
1915 *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* G.W. Bromley & Co., Philadelphia. Copy on File, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD.
- Hopkins, G.M.  
1877 *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia. Copy on File, Baltimore County Historical Society, Cockeysville, MD.
- Maryland Historical Trust (MHT)  
n.d. Lutherville National Register Historic District (BA-2211). MIHP forms and National Register nomination on file, MHT, Crownsville, MD.

---

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of nominated property:** 18,172 sq. ft.

**Quadrangle name** Cockeysville 7.5'

**Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

**UTM Reference** do NOT complete UTM references

**zone**      **easting**              **northing**

---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries conform to the legal boundaries of the parcel associated with the house. Map 69, Grid 10, Parcel 829, Lots 131, 132, 133, part of 134.

---

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

---

## 11. Form Prepared By

**name/title** Kerri Culhane/Project Architectural Historian

**organization** John Milner Associates, Inc.

**date** 10/1999

**street & number** 5250 Cherokee Avenue, Suite 410

**telephone** 703/354-9737

**city or town** Alexandria

**state** Virginia

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  
                              DHCP/DHCD  
                              100 Community Place  
                              Crownsville, MD 21032

**PRESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN  
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS**

**I. Geographic Region:**

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

**II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:**

- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period ( prehistoric; historic)

**III. Historic Period Themes:**

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

**IV. Resource Type:**

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): DOMESTIC: single dwelling

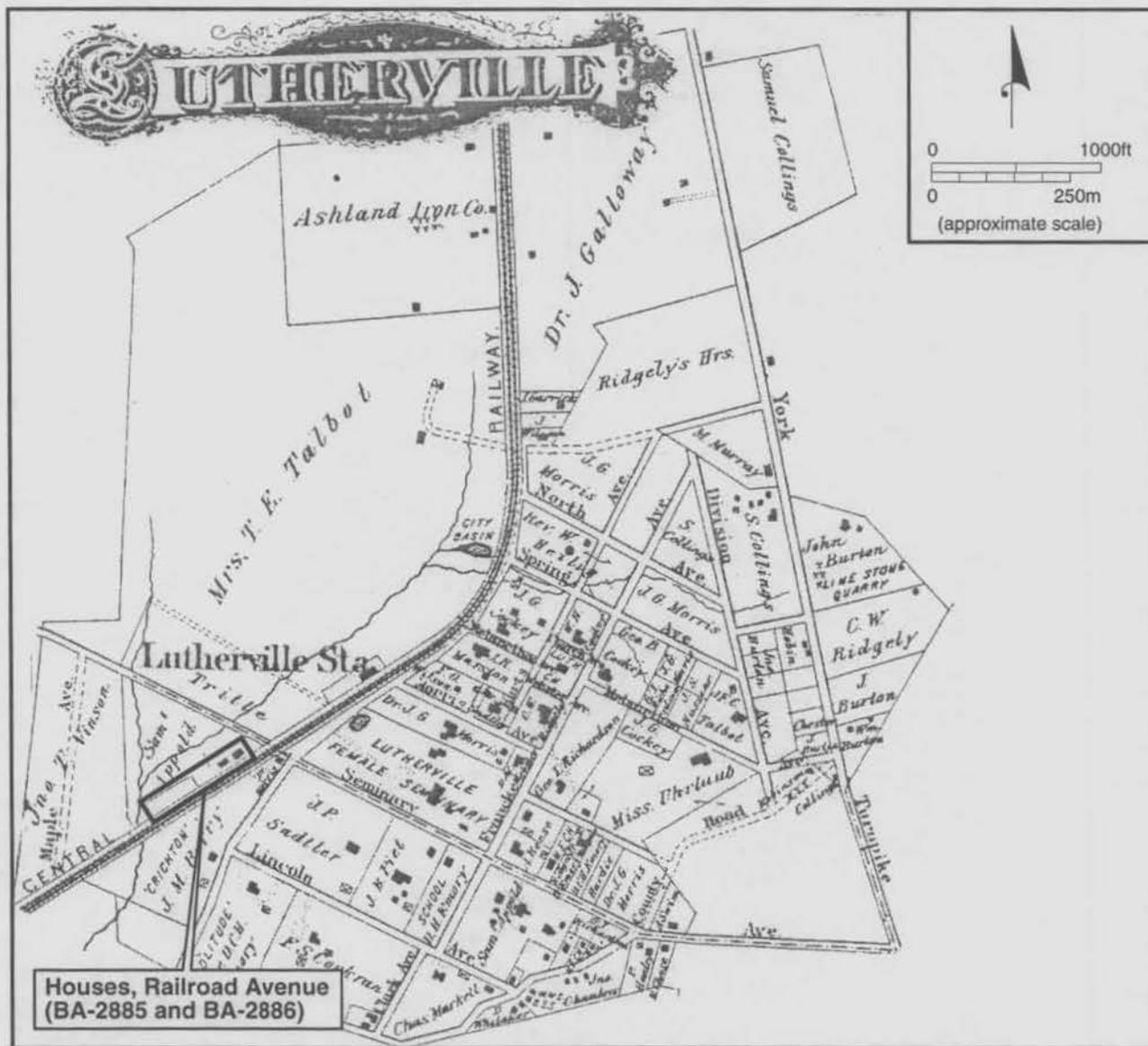
Known Design Source: none



MATCH LINE STA. N/E 557+75 - FOR CONT. SEE DWG. NO. RC-033

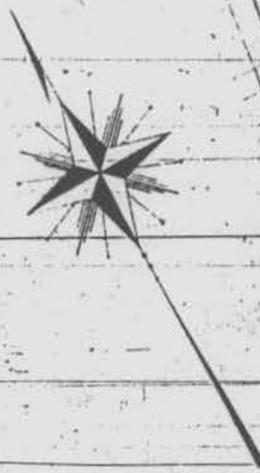
**NOTE:**

- 1) ALL PROPERTY LINES ARE GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATIONS FROM PUBLIC RECORDS UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE.
- 2) FRAME SHED OF ALESSI ENCROACHES INTO RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY.



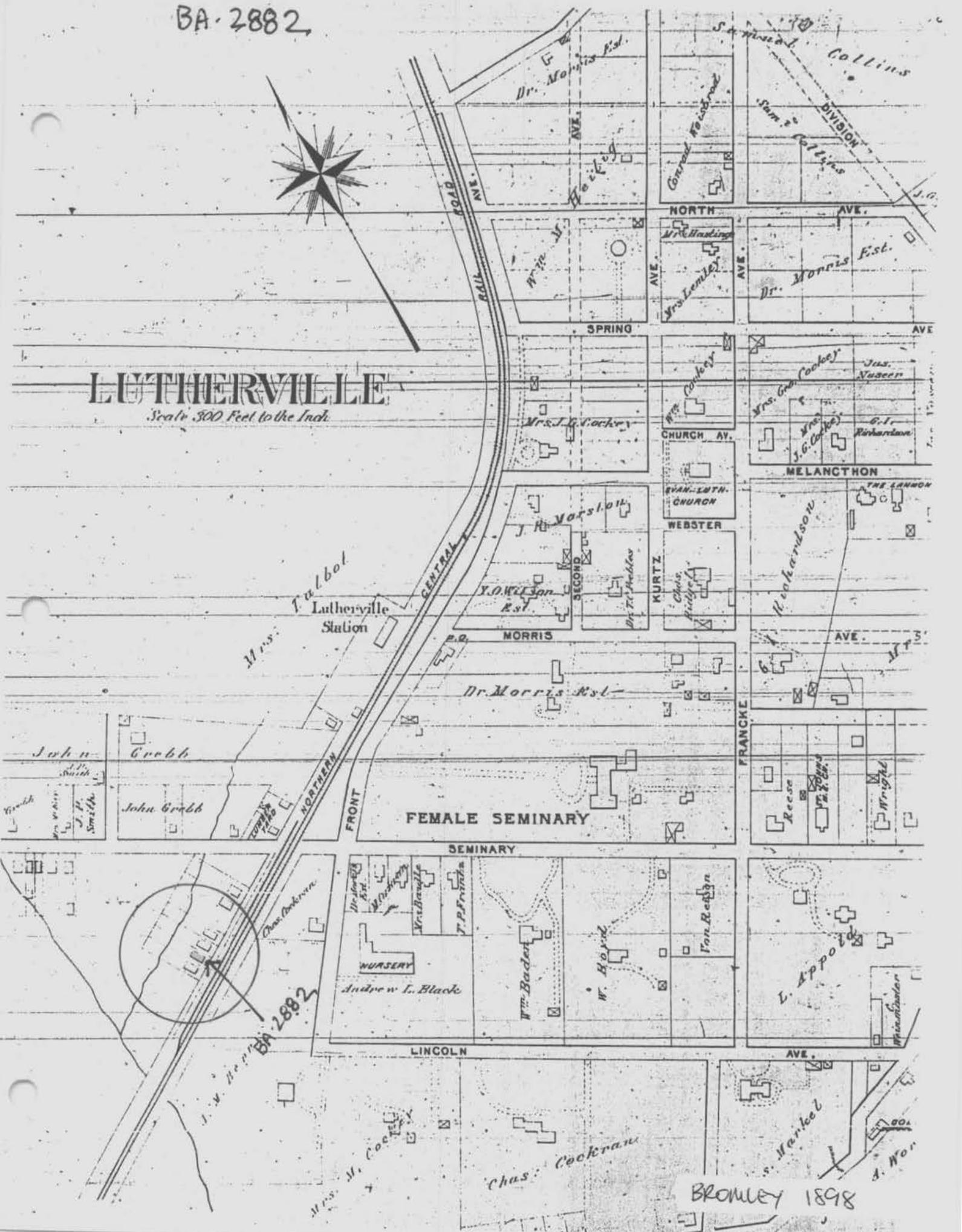
Detail of Lutherville as shown on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas.

BA-2882



# LUTHERVILLE

Scale 300 Feet to the Inch



FEMALE SEMINARY

SEMINARY

NURSERY  
Andrew L. Black

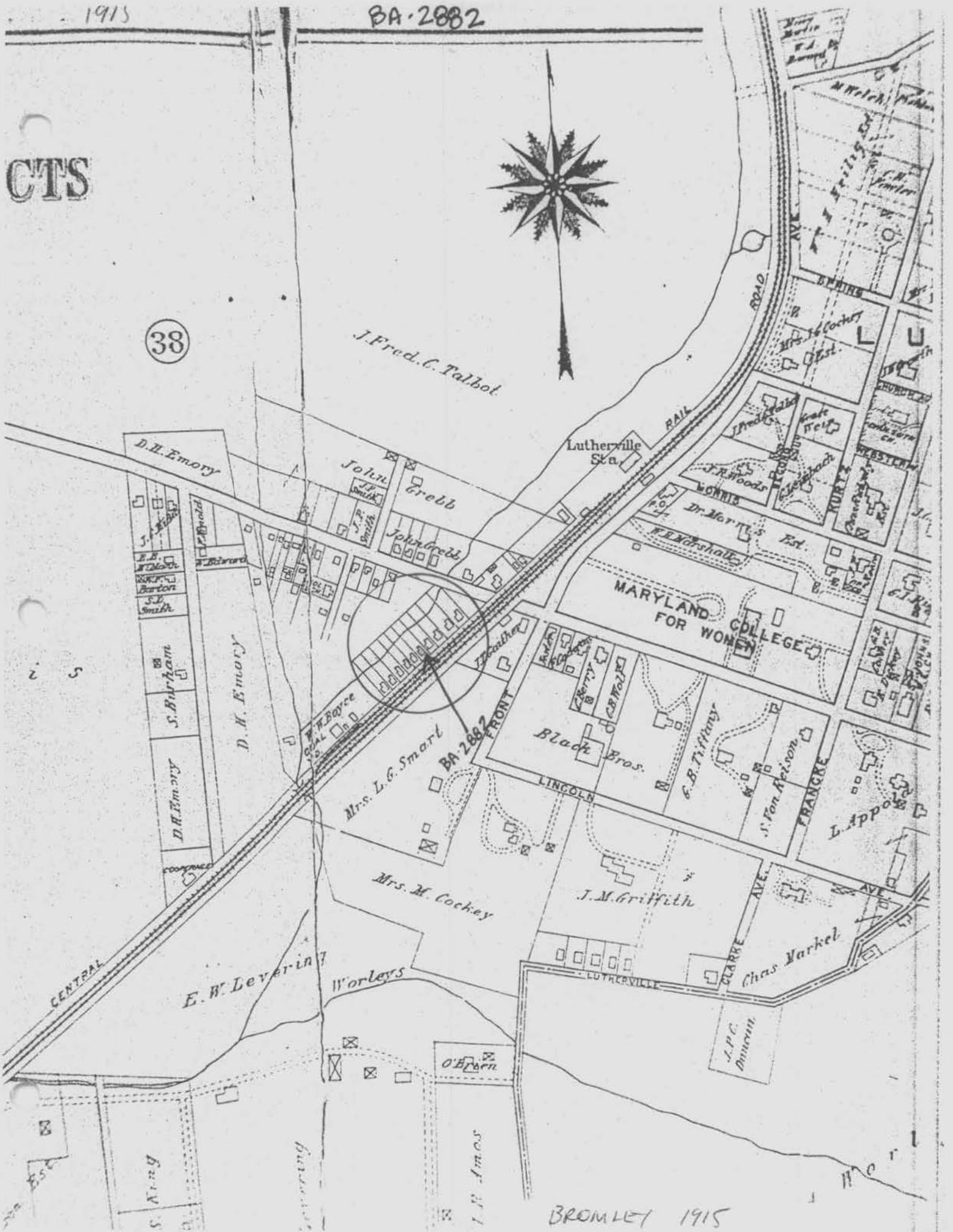
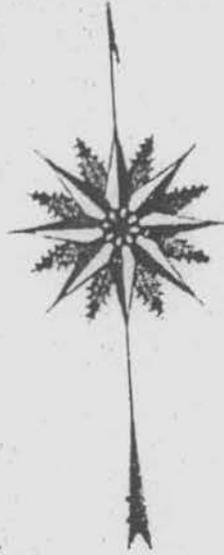
BROMLEY 1898

1915

BA-2882

CTS

38



J. Fred. C. Talbot

Lutherville Sta.

MARYLAND COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Black Bros.

Mrs. L.G. Smart

Mrs. M. Cockey

E. W. Levering

Worleys

J. M. Griffith

Chas. Varkel

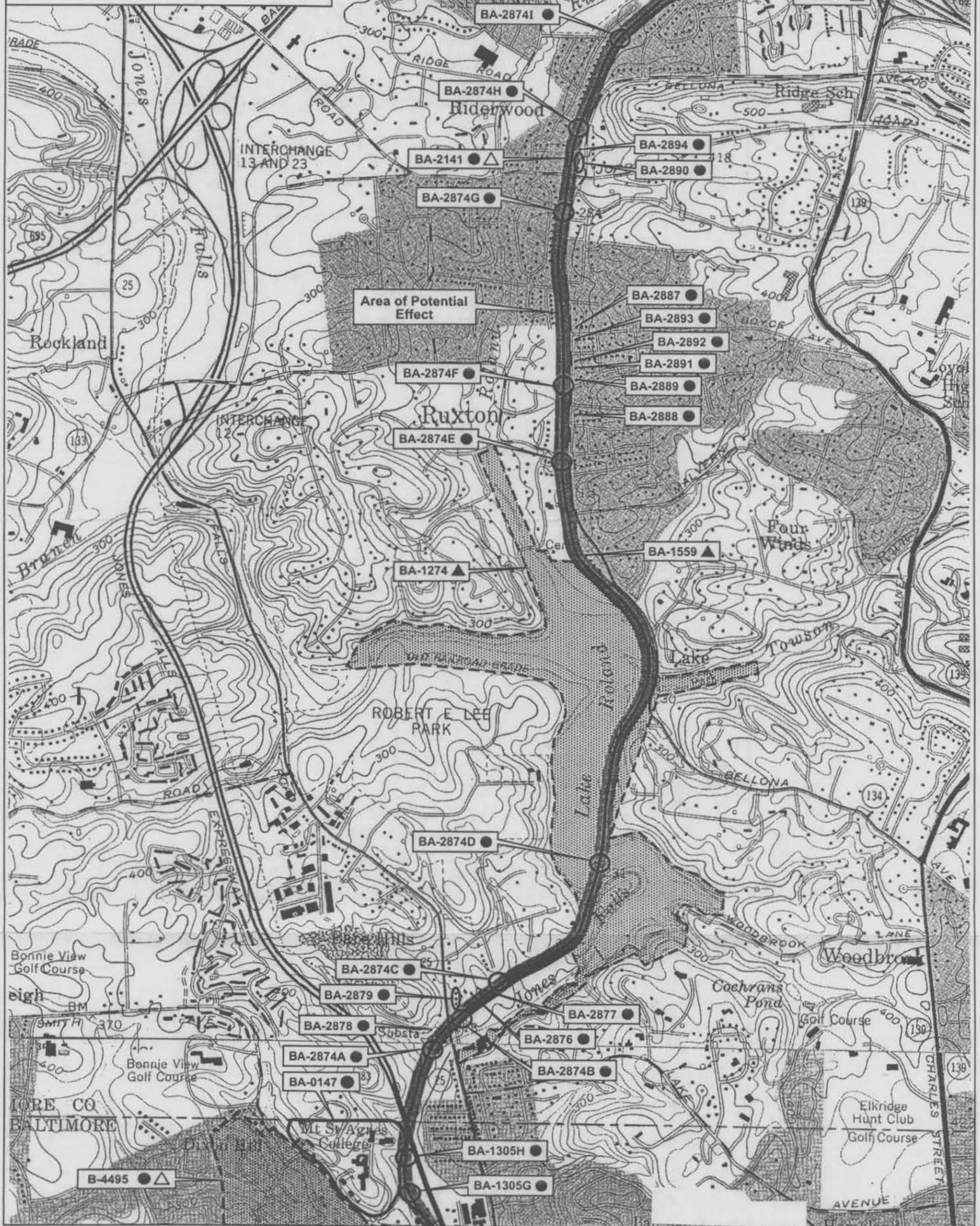
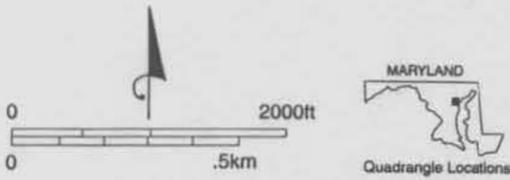
S. King

T. W. Amos

BROMLEY 1915

- ▲ Resource previously listed on National Register
- △ Resource determined potentially eligible for National Register
- Resource previously surveyed
- Resource surveyed by JMA

Portion of the USGS Cockeysville, MD 7.5' Quadrangle (1986) showing the location of BA-2882, House, 1426 Railroad Ave., Lutherville, MD



BA-2882



BA-2882

HOUSE, 1426 RAILROAD AVENUE, LUTHERVILLE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

K. CULHANE

8/1999

MD SHPD

3/4 VIEW OF FACADE, VIEW TO NORTH



BA-2882

HOUSE, 1426 RAILROAD AVENUE, LUTHERVILLE

BALTIMORE CO, MD

K. CULLANE

8/1999

MDSHPO

3/4 new of rear (w) and S elevations view to NE