

## **Capsule Summary**

**BA-2901**

**J. Adam and J. Henry Klohr House**

~~3611 McDonogh Road~~ 8937 Church Lane

**Randallstown, Baltimore County**

**ca. 1844**

**Private**

J. Adam Klohr constructed a house at the corner of Church Lane and McDonogh Road in 1844 after his arrival in Baltimore County from Germany in 1843. Upon his death in the late 1860s, his son, J. Henry, expanded the dwelling into a two-family residence and remained on the land until the early 20th century. The surrounding community of Randallstown grew from a small crossroads between Baltimore and Libertytown to a large residential and farming community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The J. Adam and J. Henry Klohr House is currently a three-bay wide, single-pile I-house. The parged random rubble stone foundation continues under the two-story main block and the two bays of the original ell. Based on a reconnaissance survey of the building, it appears that the original portion of the structure comprised a two-bay wide house and freestanding one-story kitchen. The main block of the building was enlarged by the construction of an additional bay to the east, thereby creating the I-house form present today. The house and kitchen were subsequently connected by a of two-bay deep addition that reads as a rear ell. The cross-gabled roof of the main house and ell, including the one-story kitchen at the south end of the ell, is clad in asphalt shingles. The two-and-a-half-story portion of the building is clad in wood weatherboard. *The kitchen is clad in board-and-batten siding. Three interior chimneys perforate the roof.* The first two are central interior chimneys, including one that rises through the center of the main block and one at the center of the existing ell. The third is an interior end chimney at the south end of the kitchen. A full-width one-story porch extends across the north elevation, and a two-bay porch covers the entry on the west elevation. Both porches have hipped roofs clad in asphalt shingles. One shed-roofed porch clad in asphalt shingles extends from the back of the kitchen. There are two shed-roofed additions to the two-story portion of the house.



## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2901

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

Constructed in 1844, the J. Adam and J. Henry Klohr House is currently a three-bay wide, single-pile I-house. The parged random rubble stone foundation continues under the two-story main block and the two bays of the original ell. Based on a reconnaissance survey of the building, it appears that the original portion of the structure comprised a two-bay wide house and freestanding one-story kitchen. The main block of the building was enlarged by the construction of an additional bay to the east, thereby creating the I-house form present today. The house and kitchen were subsequently connected by a series of two-bay deep addition that reads as a rear ell. The cross-gabled roof of the main house and ell, including the one-story kitchen at the south end of the ell, is clad in asphalt shingles. The two-and-a-half-story portion of the building is clad in wood weatherboard. The kitchen is clad in board-and-batten siding. Three interior chimneys perforate the roof. The first two are central interior chimneys, including one that rises through the center of the main block and one at the center of the existing ell. The third is an interior end chimney at the south end of the kitchen. A full-width one story porch extends across the north elevation, and a two-bay porch covers the entry on the west elevation. Both porches have hipped roofs clad in asphalt shingles. One shed roofed porch clad in asphalt shingles extends from the back of the kitchen. There are two shed-roofed additions to the two-story portion of the house. The first connects to the south elevation of the main block, while the second projects to the east of the ell. A third shed-roofed addition projects from the east elevation of the kitchen.

The setting of the J. Adam and J. Henry Klohr House remains partially wooded, with mature and immature foliage surrounding the perimeter of the property. There are two outbuildings historically associated with the house, which include a frame garage and shed.

The dwelling is currently a two-family house. The exterior survey documented the entire structure. The interior survey was conducted in the rear ell and additions, with no access to the main block. Based on the archival research, it appears possible that the freestanding kitchen was one of the first structures on the property, possibly predating the main block of the dwelling.

### EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The façade, facing north, is three bays wide with the central bay slightly offset to the west. It appears as though this offset is due to the two-phase construction of the main block. A six-paneled single-leaf wood door with three light transom and wood surround comprise the entry. Above the entry, the central bay there is one 6/6 window with a wood surround and sill. Additional 6/6 windows with wood surrounds and sills at both the first and second stories pierce the outer two bays. A flat fascia decorates the top of the elevation below the eave. Four square wood posts on wood bases support the full-width porch.

The west elevation, fronting McDonogh Road, is six bays deep and comprises the main block, ell, and attached one-story kitchen. Six 6/6 windows with wood surrounds and sills pierce the first story. A six-paneled single-leaf wood door provides entry into the bay just north of the one-story kitchen. Five 6/6 windows with wood surrounds and sills pierce the second story of the west elevation. There is one 6-light fixed window with wood

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surround and sill in the gable peak. The entry porch extends the two bays of the addition to the ell and is supported by three square wood posts on wood bases.

The south elevation comprises the one story kitchen, the second and attic stories of the ell, and the main block. One four-light wood casement with wood surround and sill pierces the kitchen wall. In the gable peak there is one small wood door with strap hinges that opens into storage space in the attic above the kitchen. Between the first and attic stories at the eave level, there is a horizontal wood brace across part of the wall. The second and attic stories of the ell are visible above the kitchen. Two 6/6 windows with wood surrounds and sills pierce the second story. One four-light fixed window with wood surround and sill pierces the half story. The half story also features a metal louvered vent with a wood surround. The gable end is supported by a wood cross brace.

The east elevation comprises the one-story kitchen, ell, and main block. The features two single leaf wood doors with wood surrounds. One of these is a sash and paneled door opening into the kitchen. The other provides access to the basement. One 6/6 window with wood surround and sill pierces the kitchen wall. The kitchen has a full-width shed roofed porch supported by square wood posts. The east elevation of the ell has a shed roofed pantry clad in German siding with an inset porch. One six-light single-leaf wood door opens into the ell. One 4/2 window with wood surround and sill pierces the pantry wall. An additional 6/6 window with wood surround and sill pierces the first story of the ell. Three 6/6 windows with wood surrounds and sills pierce the second story of the ell. The east elevation of the main block is only one bay deep and features two 6/6 windows with wood surrounds and sills on the first story. Only one 6/6 window with wood surround and sill pierces the second story. A 3/6 window with wood surround and sill pierces the attic story.

### INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the building is partitioned into two separate residences; only the portion that comprises the ell fronting McDonogh Road was accessed at the time of the survey. The entire interior has molded inset window casements and plaster ceilings. The walls of the first floor are plaster, while those of the second are sheet rock replacements of the original material. Because the main block was not accessed, it is not possible to fully determine the construction history of this portion of the building.

The first floor of the ell is separated into three rooms of nearly equal square footage. The entry opens into the central room, and doors in the north and south walls of the room open into the current living room and kitchen, respectively. Stairs to the basement descend in the northeast corner of the central room. The stairs to the second story rise along the east wall of the north room. The walls of this room feature the original wood wainscot of flush horizontal boards and dado cap. The south wall of the north room also features one short vertical board door with wood surround and a plain wood mantle with a molded mantle shelf. The south room is the current kitchen and features original flush vertical board wainscot. An interior brick chimneystack rises on the south wall of the kitchen, with built-in beaded board cabinets with original hardware beside the stack.

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The second story of the ell currently comprises two bedrooms and a bath. One bedroom has original flooring of boards four to five inches wide.

The basement is also divided between the two separate apartments in the house. The portion of the basement under the ell features primarily rubble stone walls parged with concrete. The room below the kitchen has a fireplace on the south wall that corresponds to the position of the chimneystack in the room above. The wood mantle has a shallow shelf supported by brackets. The west wall has a brick wall that serves as a cold storage shelf. There are built-in shelves to the east of the mantle.

OUTBUILDINGS

To the east of the house there is a circa 1925 wood frame board and batten shed on a brick pier foundation. The side-gabled roof with exposed rafter tails is clad in asphalt shingles. The entry is on the west elevation and contains a divided single leaf board and batten door in a wood surround.

The circa 1925 garage rests to the south of the house on a brick and stone foundation. The walls are board and batten over a wood frame. The front gabled roof with exposed rafter tails is clad in asphalt shingles. The entry opens into the west elevation and has a double-leaf vertical board door and wood surround. Extending from the east elevation there is a shed roofed addition.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2901

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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" 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:

**Specific dates** 1844-1918 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1844, 1868

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.)

J. Adam Klohr constructed a house at the corner of Church Lane and McDonogh Road in 1844 after his arrival in Baltimore County from Germany in 1843. Upon his death in the late 1860s, his son, J. Henry, expanded the dwelling into a two-family residence and remained on the land until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The surrounding community of Randallstown grew from a small crossroads between Baltimore and Libertytown to a large residential and farming community in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## HISTORY

In 1844, one year after he arrived in Baltimore County from Germany, J. Adam Klohr purchased twenty-six acres of land from Alexander Stinchcomb. Shortly thereafter, based on the physical evidence presented at the reconnaissance survey, Klohr built a portion of the vernacular frame dwelling that currently stands at the corner of McDonogh Road and Church Lane. Klohr constructed the two-bay, single-pile house with an exterior end chimney. Directly behind the building, he built a freestanding one-story kitchen. Oral history contends the entire structure as seen today was constructed as two single-family dwellings with no interior access. As retold by one of the tenants presently residing in the building, Klohr constructed the two dwellings as the homes of “two spinster relatives.” There is, however, no documentation to support this theory.

The J. Adam and J. Henry Klohr House displays no stylistic details that would tie it to a specific style. The 1840s saw the last stages of Federal style and Greek Revival architecture, each with key elements that display the current fashion. None of these stylistic elements are present on the exterior of the house. The interior, however, does display some association with late Federal interior architecture. The wainscot of flush horizontal boards and dado cap around the perimeter of the living room were commonly found in vernacular houses of the middle class from the 1820s to the 1840s. The placement of built-in cupboards with vertical beaded board doors and the flush vertical board wainscot also tie the house to a vernacular interpretation of late Federal architecture.

J. Adam Klohr remained on this property until his death in 1867, at which point he willed the house and land to his son, J. Henry Klohr.

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The house, as it currently stands, does not retain its original appearance or character as established by J. Adam Klohr. It appears as though J. Henry Klohr constructed a two-story ell, which was then extended an additional bay, connecting the house and kitchen. The resulting structure then had entrances on both the Church Lane and McDonogh Road elevations. In addition, J. Henry Klohr added the additional bay onto the main block of the house, giving the building an I-house form. The traditional I-house form has a three-bay wide/one-room deep configuration. The I-house is always two stories in height, with a side gable roof and central entry. This form began as early as the 1760s and continued well into the 1920s.

It is possible that J. Henry Klohr enlarged the structure to accommodate his growing family. While learning the masonry trade in the late 1800s, Seymour Ruff boarded with the Klohr family. Later, he married J. Henry Klohr's daughter, Wilhelmina. At first, the couple resided with her parents until they purchased land of their own in the 1890s. This may be the reason for the partition of the building into two residences with two separate entrances and addresses.

During J. Henry Klohr's ownership of this property, the community of Randallstown grew from the crossroads community established by John and Christopher Randall in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. By 1850, Randallstown had developed into a small residential and commercial center. The town boasted fewer than fifty residents, two stores, and a tavern in the small town. The Baltimore and Liberty Turnpike Company incorporated in 1860 after two failed attempts to organize a company that would be able to improve the conditions of the existing Liberty Road. By the early 1800s, Soldiers Delight Road became known as Liberty Road, for it led to Libertytown in eastern Frederick County. The first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw increased use of Liberty Road as settlements spread out in all directions from Baltimore. By mid-century, it had fallen into disrepair. As a result, citizens from many communities along Liberty Road saw the need for a company or organization to better the road's condition. The first petition was presented to the state legislature in 1843. Seven years later, after the first attempt failed, citizens presented another petition. Although the second petition resulted in the passage of an act for the incorporation of a turnpike company, no action was taken. The second district waited another eleven years before the Baltimore and Liberty Turnpike Company organized in 1860 to remedy the situation of a nearly impassable road.<sup>1</sup>

Successful completion of the Baltimore and Liberty Turnpike in the mid-1860s resulted in a much faster trip to Baltimore from Randallstown and other towns to the west. Contemporary accounts indicate that improvement of the road enabled the communities to the northwest of Baltimore to become more cosmopolitan. At the very least, the completion of the Baltimore and Liberty Turnpike led to increased travel through Randallstown and

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<sup>1</sup> William Hollifield, *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County* (Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978), p. 28.

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nearby communities, allowing a greater diffusion of cultural influences throughout the western part of the county.<sup>2</sup>

By the late 1870s, the once modest community of Randallstown grew to nearly twice its size of thirty years earlier. By 1877, the population had expanded to nearly 75 people. The services of a post office, school, three churches, and three stores enabled the residents to maintain a certain degree of self-sufficiency and independence from the neighboring towns of Rockdale to the east and Harrisonville to the west. The 1877 county atlas shows hints that the community was slated for further growth. In addition to the residential and commercial structures that were located along the turnpike, there were several houses accessed by unimproved roads. As the town continued to grow, these roads would most likely be slated for improvement as the town's population increased. In 1880, Randallstown had a population of 100, including two physicians. The population grew by an additional 50 people over the next year. By all accounts, the town was growing at a geometric rate. Later views of the city indicate that it would continue to grow throughout the early twentieth century. The 1915 county atlas indicates that the town's population had indeed increased through the last twenty years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first 15 of the 20<sup>th</sup>. However, the town only grew in its residential status. Randallstown did not, however, grow as a commercial center until the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>3</sup>

Upon J. Henry Klohr's death in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, his trustees sold the property to his son-in-law, Seymour Ruff, who lived across the intersection at 9000 Church Lane. After acquiring this additional acreage in 1918, Ruff began to purchase more lands southeast of the Church Lane/McDonogh Road intersection. His intention was to partition the properties as a development called "Fieldstone." After acquiring the necessary land, Ruff maintained many of the existing dwellings and then subdivided the remaining acreage along new cross streets called Fieldstone, Blackstone, Stoneybrook, Briarstone, and Rusty Rock Roads.

Seymour Ruff retained ownership of the J. Adam and J. Henry Klohr House and even added two outbuildings to the property in the 1920s. It is not currently known whether his relatives or children used the property as a residence or whether he used the house as a rental property for additional income. In the 1980s, the house was sold to the Stanfield family, descendants of Seymour Ruff. Still divided into a two-family residence, the J. Adam and J. Henry Klohr House still retains most of the original fabric throughout the ell and the kitchen.

### Chain of Title

September 27, 1844      Alexander Stinchcomb, et al. to Adam Klohr  
Land Records of Baltimore County

<sup>2</sup> Hollifield, p. 28.

<sup>3</sup> *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*, 20-21; see also Thomas J. Scharf, *History of the City and County of Baltimore from the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881), pp. 830-831.

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Liber TK 345 Folio 348

November 19, 1867

Adam Klohr to J. Henry Klohr  
Probate Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 3 Folio 226

May 20, 1918

John J. Timanus and E. Lynne Painter, trustees to Seymour and Wilhelmina Ruff  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 394 Folio 462

January 22, 1945

Hubert H. Harker, executor of the will of Seymour Ruff; Hubert H. Harker and Marjorie Stanfield, trustees to the estate of Seymour Ruff; and Helen A. Ruff to Helen A. Ruff  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 1379 Folio 451

June 30, 1983

Edward Stanfield and Richard Stanfield, Personal Representatives of the estate of Helen Ruff, deceased to Edward Stanfield and Richard Stanfield  
Land Records of Baltimore County  
Liber 6550 Folio 283

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. BA-2901

*Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Hollifield, William. *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County.* Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978.

Marye, William. "The Old Indian Road." *Maryland Historical Magazine* 15 (1920): pp. 208-229.

Olsen, Sherry H. *Baltimore: The Building of an American City.* Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property Less than one Acre

Acreage of historical setting 26 Acres

Quadrangle name Ellicott City

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Since 1844, the J. Adam and J. Henry Klohr House has been associated with the 16,900 square feet known as parcel 272 and located on grid 8, map 77 in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's Office.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	L. V. Trieschmann, A. L. McDonald, and J. J. Bunting, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Inc.	date	8 October 2000
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

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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

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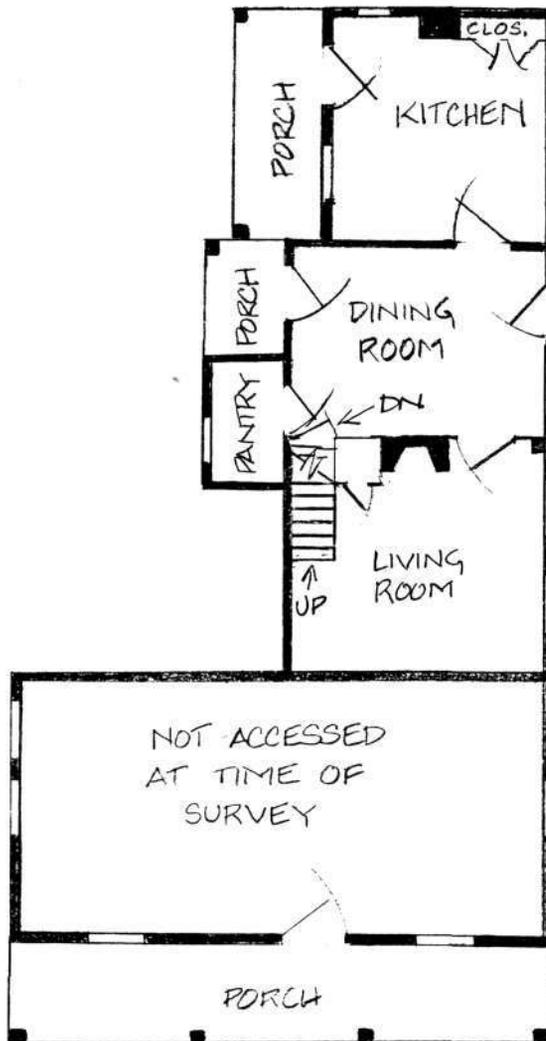
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Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of the City and County of Baltimore from the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

FIRST FLOOR  
PLAN



BA-2901

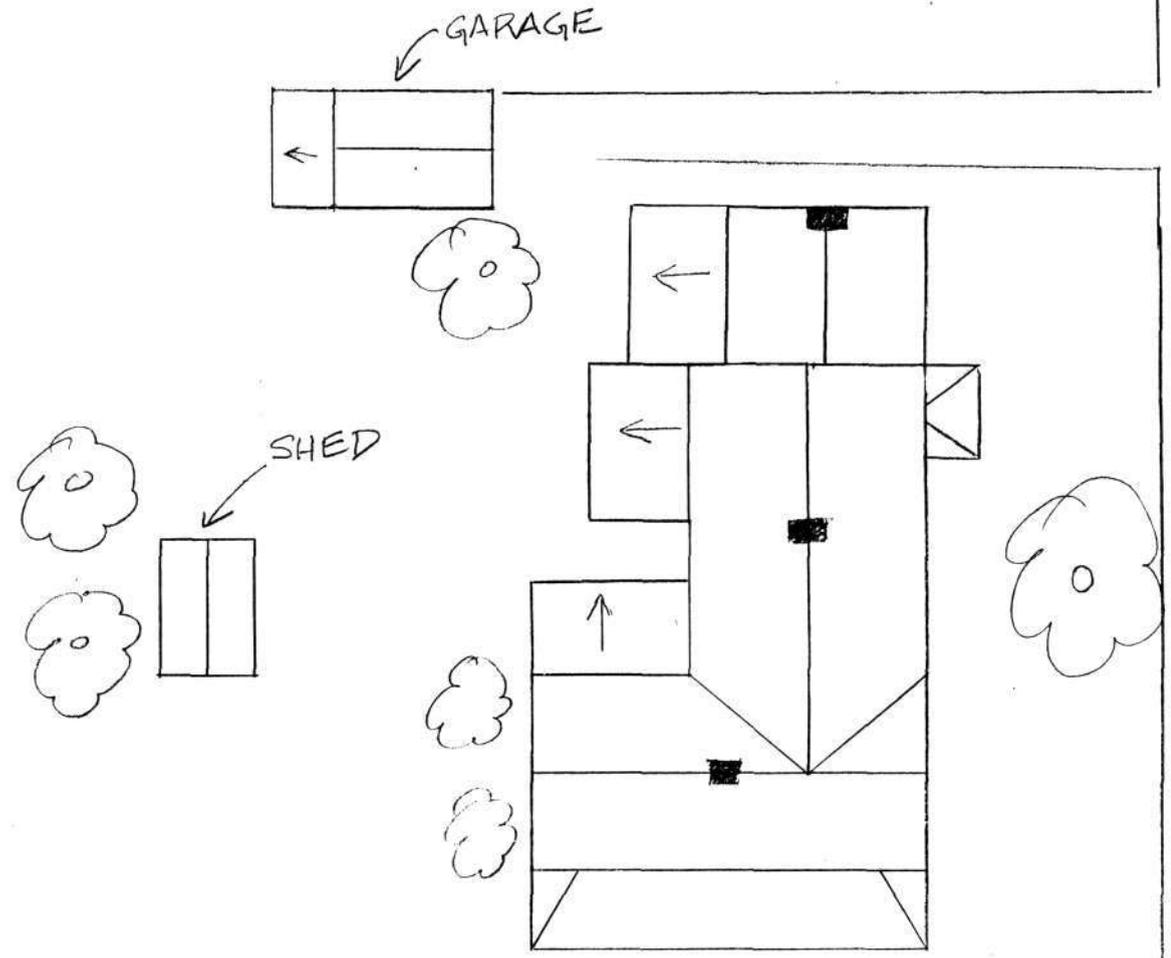
J. ADAM AND J. HENRY KLOHR HOUSE  
3611 McDONOGH ROAD  
RANDALLSTOWN  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

B 2901

J. ADAM AND J. HENRY KLOHR HOUSE  
3611 McDONOUGH ROAD  
RANDALLSTOWN  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE



MCDONOUGH ROAD

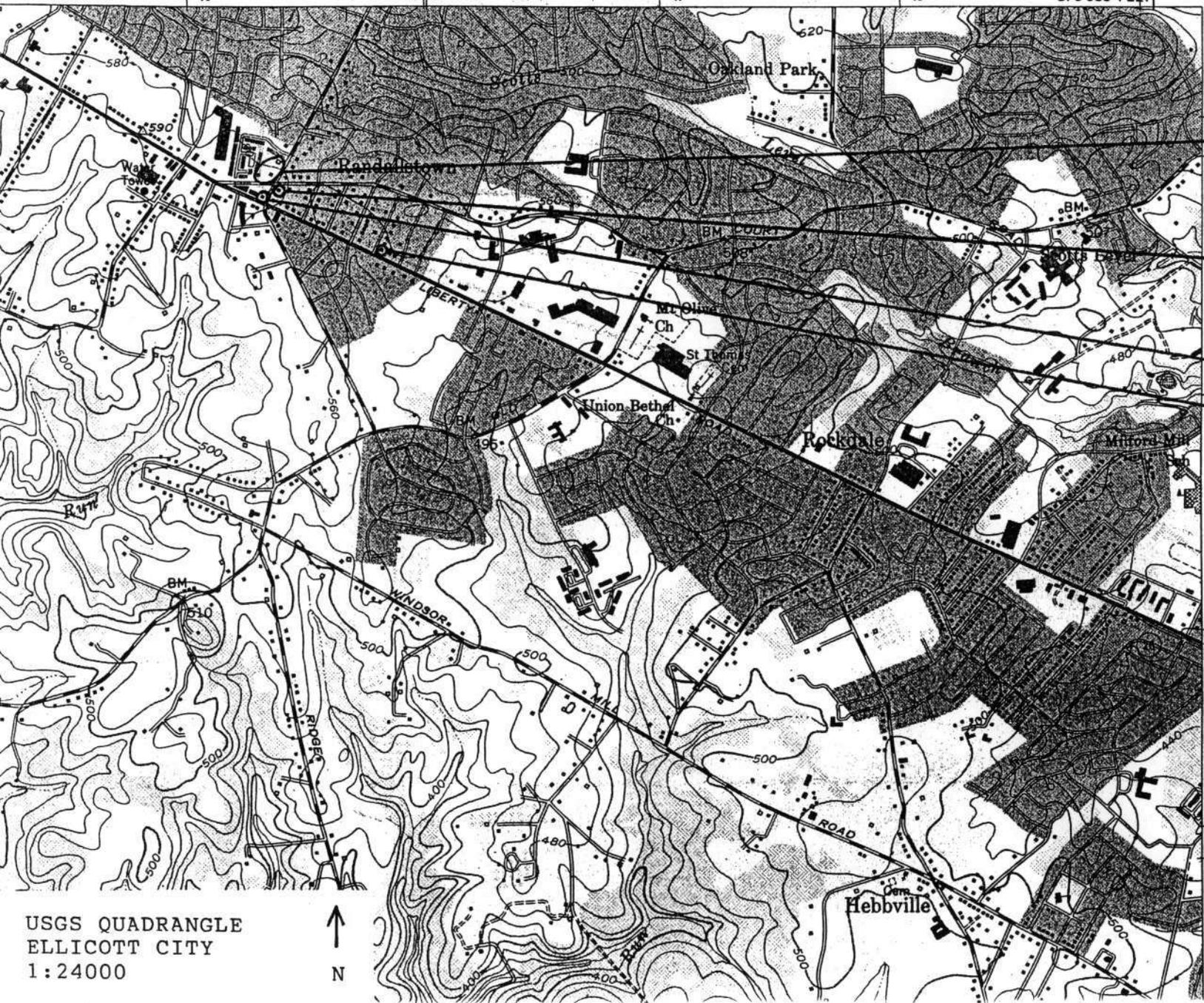
CHURCH LANE

BA-2901

ELLICOTT CITY QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5682 1 NW  
(COCKEYSVILLE)

NE (TOWN) 345 47'30" 346 347 348 870 000 FEET 76°45' 39°22'30"



560 000 FEET BA-2900 9000 CHURCH LANE

BA-2901 3611 MCDONOGH ROAD

BA-2903 9000 LIBERTY ROAD

BA-2902 3601 RUSTY ROCK ROAD

MILFORD 0.6 MI. BALTIMORE (CIVIC CENTER) 0.6 MI.

USGS QUADRANGLE  
ELLICOTT CITY  
1:24000





BA-2901

Henry Klohr House  
3611 McDonagh Road  
Randallstown  
Baltimore County  
Traceries

5/00

MD SHPD

North elevation, looking south  
1 of 9



BA2901

Henry Klohr House

3611 McDonogh Road

Randallstown

Baltimore County

Traceries

5/00

MD SHPO

Southwest corner, looking northeast (showing  
west elevation).

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BA 2901

Henry Klohr House

3611 McDonogh Road

Randallstown

Baltimore County

Traceries

5/00

MD SHPO

South elevation, looking north

3 of 9



BA 2901

Henry Klohr House

3611 McDonogh Road

Randallstown

Baltimore County

Traceries

5/00

MD SHPD

East elevation, looking west

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BA 2901

Henry Klohr House

3611 McDonogh Road

Randallstown

Baltimore County

Traceries

5/00

MD SHPO

Living room; South wall, looking south

5 of 9



BA 2901

Henry Klohr House

3611 McDonogh Road

Randallstown

Baltimore County

Traceries

5/00

MD SHPO

Kitchen: South wall, looking south

6 of 9



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Henry Klohr House

3611 McDonagh Road

Randallstown

Baltimore County

Traceries

5/00

MD SHPO

Basement; southwest corner, looking southwest

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BA 2901

Henry Klohr House

3611 McDonogh Road

Randallstown

Baltimore County

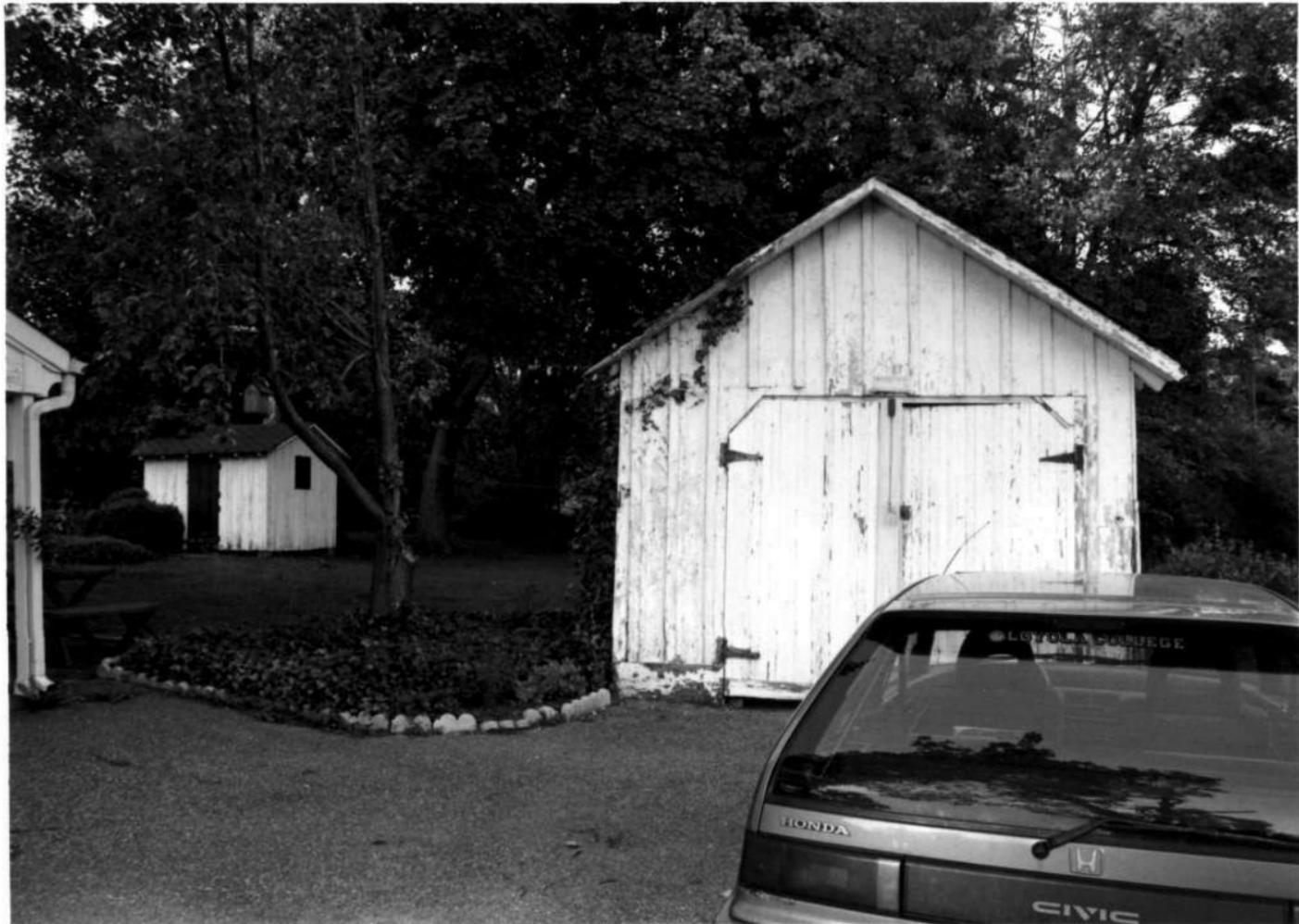
Traceries

5/00

MD SHPO

Basement: southeast corner under living room,  
looking southeast

8 of 9



BA 2901

Henry Klohr House

3611 McDonogh Road

Randallstown

Baltimore County

Traceries

5/00

MD SHPO

View east of garage (right) and shed (left)

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