

Capsule Summary

BA-2902

Adam and G. Harmon Klohr House

3601 Rusty Rock Road

Randallstown, Baltimore County

ca. 1870

Private

The Adam and G. Harmon Klohr House was constructed in 1870, after Anderson Randall sold the property to Adam Klohr in November 1869. The house is significant to the late 19th century history of Randallstown, a small crossroads community established in the first half of the 18th century along Liberty Road. Situated at 3601 Rusty Rock Road, at its terminus on Liberty Road, the Adam and G. Harmon Klohr House represents a vernacular interpretation of Gothic Revival construction in the third quarter of the 19th century. The house remains in the possession of Klohr family descendants. The Adam and G. Harmon Klohr House retains integrity of location, materials, workmanship, design, setting, feeling, and association. The only alterations to the building appear to be the late 19th century ell, the mid-20th century clad of asbestos shingling, and the alteration of an existing porch.

The two-and-a-half-story Adam and G. Harmon Klohr House represents a vernacular building form with modest details that tie it to the Gothic Revival style popular in the mid- to late 19th century. Between 1870 and the early 20th century, the wood frame center passage/single-pile I-house was enlarged by the addition of a two-story wood frame rear ell at the center of the southeast elevation. An original full-façade porch with a half-hipped roof extends across the northwest elevation. In the first half of the 20th century, a one-story, one-bay addition was placed to the northeast side of the ell. Only the random rubble stone foundation of the main block is visible. The entire building has been re-sided with asbestos shingles. The roofs of the main block, porch, and one-story addition are clad in asphalt shingles. A centrally placed intersecting gable on the façade enhances the side gabled roof of the main block. The gabled roof of the ell is clad in standing seam metal. Two interior end brick chimneys pierce the ridgeline of the main block. One of these has a corbeled cap; the other has been rebuilt. A third interior end rebuilt brick chimney rises through the southeast elevation of the ell. The Adam and G. Harmon Klohr House fronts Rusty Rock Road at its intersection with Liberty Road in a neighborhood predominantly developed in the early 20th century.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2902

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Adam and G. Harmon Klohr House

other

2. Location

street and number 3601 Rusty Rock Road __ not for publication

city, town Randallstown __ vicinity

county Baltimore

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

name Rudolph J. and Winifred B. Serra

street and number 3601 Rusty Rock Road telephone 410.922.4399

city, town Randallstown state MD zip code 21133

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel m. 77 p. 669

city, town Towson liber 11036 folio 307

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 type="checkbox"/> _public	<input type="checkbox"/> _agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _private	<input type="checkbox"/> _commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> _structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> _defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> _site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> _object		<input type="checkbox"/> _education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> _funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> _work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<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:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				0	

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2902

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.

The two-and-a-half-story Adam and G. Harmon Klohr House represents a vernacular building form with modest details that tie it to the Gothic Revival style popular in the mid- to late 19th century. Between 1870 and the early 20th century, the wood frame center passage/single-pile I-house was enlarged by the addition of a two-story wood frame rear ell at the center of the southeast elevation. A late 19th century full-façade porch with a half-hipped roof extends across the northwest elevation. In the first half of the 20th century, a one-story, one-bay addition was placed to the northeast side of the ell. Only the random rubble stone foundation of the main block is visible. The entire building has been re-sided with asbestos shingles. The roofs of the main block, porch, and one-story addition are clad in asphalt shingles. A centrally placed intersecting gable on the façade enhances the side gabled roof of the main block. The gabled roof of the ell is clad in standing seam metal. Two interior end brick chimneys pierce the ridgeline of the main block. One of these has a corbeled cap; the other has been rebuilt. A third interior end rebuilt brick chimney rises through the southeast elevation of the ell. The Adam and G. Harmon Klohr House fronts Rusty Rock Road at its intersection with Liberty Road in a neighborhood predominantly developed in the 1960s.

This property was surveyed from public property at the request of the owner.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The façade, facing northwest, is three bays wide. The central entry contains a single-leaf wood door with Italianate style detailing, including recessed semi-circular panels with projecting molding. Three-light sidelights and a three-light transom in a wood surround frame the opening. Flanking the entry are 2/2 windows with wood surrounds and sills. Three regularly spaced 2/2 windows with wood surrounds, sills, and chamfered head trim pierce the second story. The first and second story windows have two-panel shutters. One triangular arched four-light casement window with flat wood surrounds pierces the half story in the gable peak. The three-bay porch is supported by chamfered wood posts and a solid balustrade clad with asbestos shingle.

The southwest elevation comprises the side gabled main block and the ell. Two 2/2 windows with wood surrounds, sills, and chamfered head trim pierce the first and second stories of the main block. The northwest elevation of the ell also has two 2/2 windows with wood surrounds and sills at the first and second stories.

The southeast elevation is three bays wide and formed by the main block, ell, and one story addition. The south bay is the main block of the house. Two 2/2 windows with wood surrounds, sills, and chamfered head trim pierce the second story of the east bay. The central bay, formed by the southeast elevation of the ell, has no windows or doors. The one story addition comprises the east bay of the elevation, however, it was not visible at the time of the survey.

The northeast elevation comprises the side gabled main block, the one story addition, and the second story of the ell. Two 2/2 windows with wood surrounds, sills, and chamfered head trim pierce the first and second stories of the main block. Two four-light casement windows with wood surrounds and head trim pierce the half

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story in the side gable peak. Although one window pierces the one-story addition, it was not visible at the time of the survey. A single-leaf wood door with a jalousie screen also pierces the addition. The second story of the ell features two 2/2 windows with wood surrounds and sills at the second story level.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior was not accessible at the time of the survey.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2902

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	1870, 1923	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1870, 1888		

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.)

The Adam and G. Harmon Klohr House was constructed in 1870, after Anderson Randall sold the property to Adam Klohr in November of 1869. The house is significant to the late 19th century history of Randallstown, a small crossroads community established in the first half of the 18th century along Liberty Road. Situated at 3601 Rusty Rock Road, at its terminus on Liberty Road, the Adam and G. Harmon Klohr House represents a vernacular interpretation of Gothic Revival construction popular in the 1870s and 1880s. The house remains in the possessions of Klohr family descendants.

HISTORY

Randallstown was founded by John and Christopher Randall in the first half of the 18th century at the intersection of Soldiers Delight Rolling Road and Court Road. Dating to the 1730s, Court Road connected settlements along the Patapsco River with Joppa, the original Baltimore County seat located on the Big Gunpowder River. Sections of Court Road in the eastern part of the county are known as Joppa Road. As one of the earliest roads in Baltimore County, Court Road played an important role in its settlement patterns. Soldiers Delight Road ran from Baltimore in a northwesterly direction toward Soldiers Delight, near the county line. The development of the turnpike system in the early 19th century could possibly have resulted in greater travel along Court Road. Increased travel, however, meant that Court Road would need a greater amount of regular maintenance. By the mid-19th century, it had fallen into disrepair and was desired by the county government to be replaced by other roads that would conceivably better serve the county's growing rural population.¹

By this time, the community of Randallstown had developed into a small residential and commercial center. By 1850, there were fewer than fifty residents, two stores, and a tavern in the small town. Most of the residential buildings were constructed along Liberty Road, but a few dwellings were built on roads that intersected Liberty.

¹ Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County* (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979), pp. 136, 309; see also J. C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore from Original Surveys* (Baltimore: James M. Stephens, 1850), n.p.; William B. Marye, "The Old Indian Road," *Maryland Historical Magazine* 15 (1920): pp. 208-213; and Sherry H. Olson, *Baltimore: The Building of an American City* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), p. 172.

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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 19th 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.²

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 nearby communities, allowing a greater diffusion of cultural influences throughout the western part of the county.³

In 1869, at the height of Randallstown's early development and growth, Adam Klohr purchased a small tract of land from Anderson Randall at the intersection of Liberty and Rusty Rock Roads. Shortly after the sale, Adam Klohr began construction of a two-story, four room log house. According to local accounts, the house was enlarged in 1888 to its current size and plan as a modestly-detailed vernacular interpretation of late Gothic Revival style architecture.⁴

Although introduced to the United States in the 1830s by architect Alexander Jackson Davis, the Gothic Revival style was popularized during the mid-19th century by Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852), a landscape architect and promoter of the cottage residence. Downing's *Victorian Cottage Residences*, was published numerous times between 1842 and 1873, touting the advantages of the inexpensive, detached dwelling. He claimed that Gothic architecture could be adapted to the use of domestic construction, resulting in a more pleasing and picturesque residential environment. Although the Gothic Revival Style fell out of favor by the late-1860s, it regained some popularity with the works of John Ruskin, a late 19th century British art and

² William Hollifield, *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County* (Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978), p. 28.

³ Hollifield, p. 28.

⁴ Beryl Frank, "Memories of an 87 Year-Old House," Klohr Family Vertical Files, Baltimore County Office of Planning, Towson, MD.

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literature critic. This resulted in a resurgence of the Gothic Revival style throughout the United States.⁵

Built and enlarged at this transitional point between the decline and reintroduction of Gothic Revival architecture into the American landscape, the Adam and G. Harmon Klohr House represents a modest interpretation of it. The aspects of its design and ornamentation that tie it to the Gothic Revival style are the intersecting center gable and gable-peak triangular arched Gothic window. The use of the front gable on the I-house was a common stylistic trend presented in rural Maryland and Virginia in the late 19th century. 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-passage entry. This form began as early as the 1760s and continued well into the 1920s. Builders continued to construct the I-house form, applying stylistic details such as a portico, full-wide front porch, corner boards, molded cornices, and projecting front gables. Although the fashionable detailing was minimal, it indicated the architectural knowledge of rural builders, architects, and homeowners. The full-width front porch, triangular-arched window, stylized main entry, and projecting front gable of the Adam and G. Harmon Klohr House are indicative of this stylistic trend ornamenting I-house. The detailing, however, is not enough to suggest the full-fledged Gothic Revival style.

Local accounts, including oral tradition upheld by Klohr family descendants, maintains that it was G. Harmon Klohr built, owned and resided in the house from the date of its construction. There is no additional documentation to support this theory. Adam Klohr retained ownership of the house from 1869 until 1923. The 1877 and 1915 county atlases both label the property with the name "H. Klohr." This could refer to G. Harmon Klohr, if the label only refers to H[armon], or even to Henry Klohr. County atlas labels, however, only refer to the individual residing in the building, not to the owner of the structure. It is possible that Adam Klohr owned the property and G. Harmon Klohr resided in it.⁶

The house on Rusty Rock had been associated with Adam Klohr for fifty-four years before finally being sold in 1923. In April of that year, local stonemason Seymour Ruff purchased the house at a public sale for \$21,000. At this point, the property became part of the residential development known as "Fieldstone," which was established by Ruff in the 1920s. The Ruff family retained ownership of the house for only two months before selling it to Katherine Blair and Emily Tibbals. It appears as though Blair and Tibbals added the one story addition to the house in the 1920s or 1930s. In 1961, Emily Tibbals, who appears to have had sole ownership of the property by that point, sold it to Ruth Morrison. Morrison sold the property to Rudolph and Winifred Serra in 1961. The Serra family, descendants of the Klohrs, has retained possession of the Adam and G. Harmon Klohr House, which remains a private residence.

⁵ Andrew Jackson Downing, *Victorian Cottage Residences*, (New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1981), p. 42; see also Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A Knopf, 1988), p. 200.

⁶ *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877), p. 17; see also *Atlas of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).

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Chain of Title:

- November 27, 1869: Anderson Randall to Adam Klohr
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber EHA 64 Folio 476
- April 27, 1923: Noah E. Offult, Merrill W. Packard, and James P. Offult, trustees to Seymour Ruff
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 572 Folio 128
- May 22, 1923: Seymour Ruff and Wilhelmina Ruff, wife, to Marjorie J. Ruff
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 570 Folio 525
- May 23, 1923: Marjorie J. Ruff to Seymour and Wilhelmina Ruff
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 570 Folio 526
- June 1, 1923: Seymour Ruff and Wilhelmina Ruff, wife, to Katherine K. Blair and Emily K. Tibbals
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber WPC 574 Folio 352
- June 21, 1961: Emily K. Tibbals, widow, and Winifred B. Serra and Rudolph J. Serra, husband to Ruth H. Morrison
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 3857 Folio 347
- June 21, 1961: Ruth H. Morrison, widow, to Rudolph J. Serra and Winifred B. Serra, wife
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 3857 Folio 350
- November 25, 1991: Rudolph J. Serra and Winifred B. Serra, wife, to Rudolph J. Serra and Winifred B. Serra, wife, John H. Serra, Sr. and Barbara Serra Hammel
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 9018 Folio 483
- April 27, 1995: Rudolph J. Serra and Winifred B. Serra, wife, John H. Serra, Sr. and Barbara Serra Hammel to John H. Serra, Sr. and Barbara Serra Hammel
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 11036 Folio 307

9. Major Bibliographical References

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- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Atlas of Baltimore County. Philadelphia: G. W. Bromley Co., 1915.
Brooks, Neal A and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Downing, Andrew Jackson. *Victorian Cottage Residences,* (New York, NY: Dover Publications, Inc., 1981.
Frank, Beryl. "Memories of an 87 Year-Old House." Klohr Family Vertical Files. Baltimore County Office of Planning. Towson, MD.
Hollifield, William. *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County.* Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978.
-

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property Less than one Acre
Acreage of historical setting 21 Acres
Quadrangle name Ellicott City Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since 1870, the Adam Klohr House has been associated with the 29,200 square feet known as parcel 669 and located on grid 8, map 77 in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's Office.

11. Form Prepared by

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

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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Continuation Sheet

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

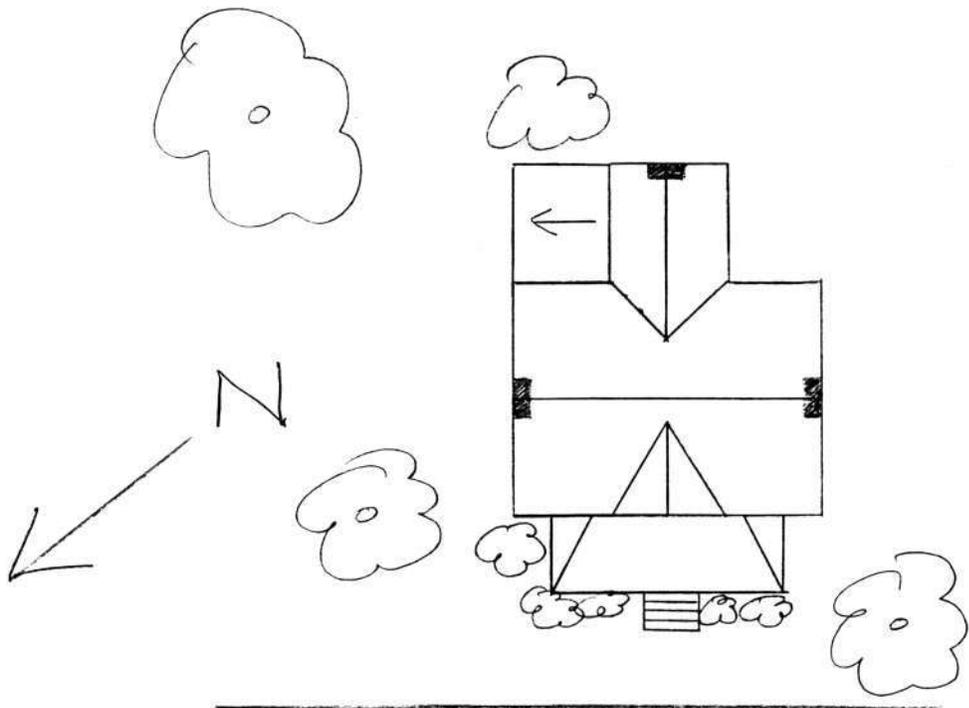
Maryland: A Guide to the Old State Line. New York: Oxford University Press, 1946.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A Knopf, 1988.

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

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

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



RUSTY ROCK ROAD

LIBERTY ROAD

BA-2902

ADAM AND G. HARMON KLOHR HOUSE
3601 RUSTY ROCK ROAD
RANDALLSTOWN
BALTIMORE COUNTY

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE.

ELLCOTT CITY QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5662 1 NW
COCKEYSVILLE

IV NE
RSTOWN)

345

47°30' 346

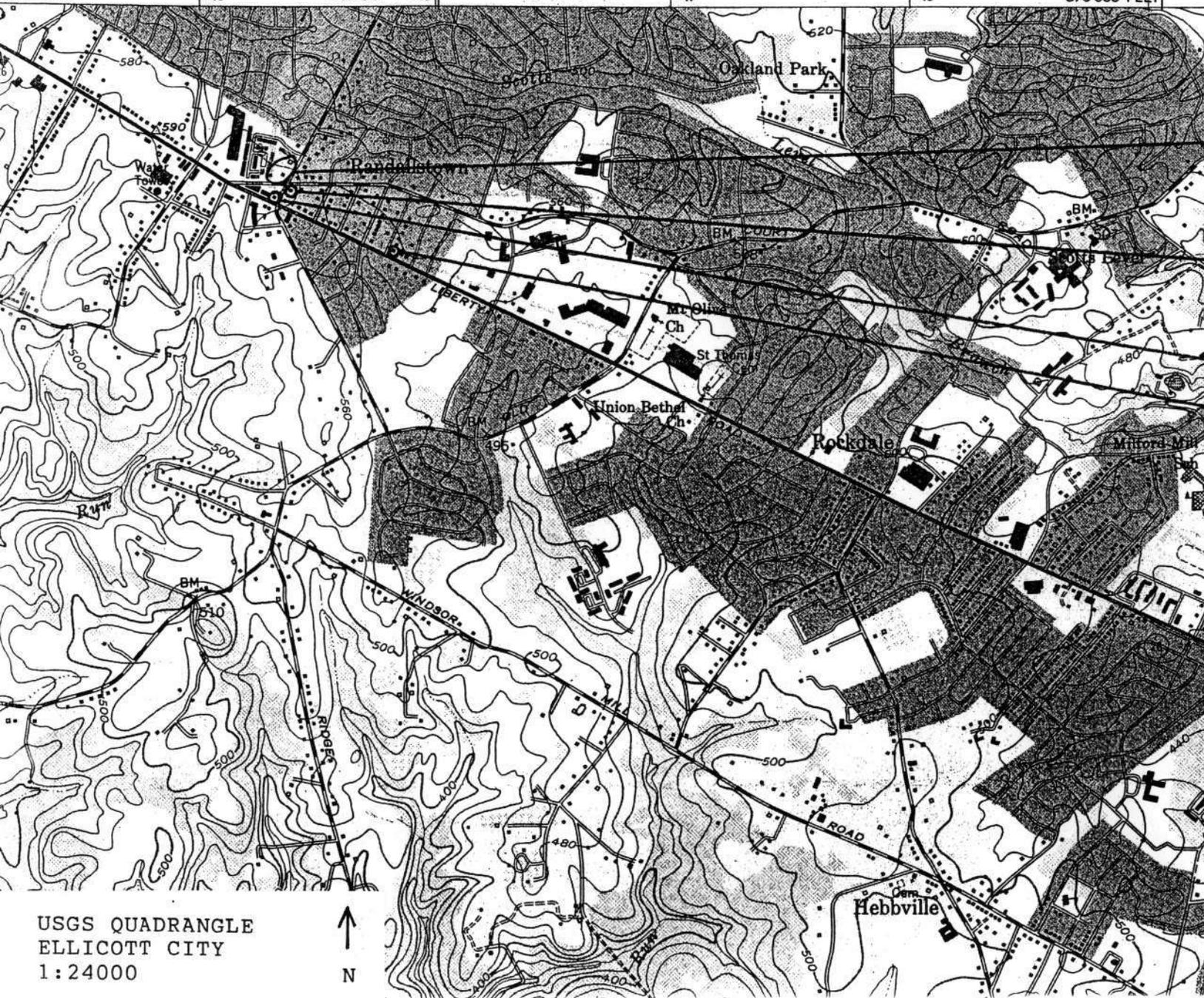
347

348

870 000 FEET

76°45'

39°22'30"



560 000
FEET

BA-2900
9000 CHURCH LANE

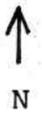
BA-2901
3611 MCDONOGH
ROAD

BA-2903
9000 LIBERTY ROAD

BA-2902
3601 RUSTY ROCK
ROAD

MILFORD 0.6 MI.
BALTIMORE (CIVIC CENTER) 5 MI.

USGS QUADRANGLE
ELLCOTT CITY
1:24000





BA-2902

3601 Rusty Rock Road, Randallstown

Baltimore County

Traceries

5/00

MD SHPO

North corner, looking south: showing facade
(northwest elevation) and northeast elevation

1 of 2



BA-2902

3601 Rusty Rock Road, Randallstown
Baltimore County

Traceries

5/00

MD SHPO

East corner, looking west : showing northeast and
southeast elevations

2 of 2