

F-4-13

The Vindobona Hotel
Braddock Heights
Private

Ca. 1910

The Vindobona is a grouping of two former hotel buildings built about 1910 with an enclosed linking building, the only remaining principal structures of an early resort hotel complex of seven buildings near the early 20th century summer resort of Braddock Heights, a development of the Frederick and Middletown Railway. The two buildings have gambrel and gable roofs with aluminum siding and modern additions on the west elevation. The most visible reminders of the hotel period other than the general outlines of the two buildings are the fieldstone exterior chimney on the north building and a pair of stone gateposts near the north end of the property. Vindobona became a nursing home in the early 1950's and the original group of seven buildings was eventually demolished except for the Skyline and Roosevelt buildings. In their altered state, they are fair examples of early 20th century resort architecture. The Vindobona was a well-known retreat for prominent Washingtonians, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt's secretary, Grace Tully, whom Roosevelt visited at the hotel in 1934.

F-4-13

The Vindobona Hotel
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Arch., Landscape Arch., Comm. Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/hotel/hotel

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Vindobona Hotel

and/or common Vindobona Nursing Home

2. Location

street & number 6012 Jefferson Blvd. not for publicationcity, town Braddock Heights vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: nursing home

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

name Vindobona, Inc.

street & number P.O. Box 318 telephone no.:

city, town Braddock Heights state and zip code Md. 21714-0318

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MHT Inventory of Historic Properties F-4-13

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Md. SHPO

city, town Crownsville state Md. 21032

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-13

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 2

Vindobona is a connected group of two buildings with an enclosed link built about 1910 as a resort hotel which was converted to a nursing home in the early 1950's. Once part of a group of seven buildings, the two remaining buildings are located on the west side of Jefferson Boulevard in the southern part of the village of Braddock Heights, Frederick County, Maryland. The two buildings are generally rectangular structures with gambrel and gable roofs, aluminum siding, and modern extensions on the west and north. The grounds of the nursing home correspond generally to those of the hotel, although a paved parking lot occupies the area north of the buildings. The structures have replacement aluminum or vinyl windows and composition roofs. An exterior stone chimney in the northernmost building is virtually the only exterior reminder of the home's use as a hotel.

Vindobona's two buildings are designated the Skyline building on the north and the Roosevelt building on the south. The Skyline building is 1-1/2 stories and has a gambrel roof with dormers on the north and south roof slopes. The exterior stone chimney is located on the north elevation. A three-bay facade in the gable end faced Jefferson Boulevard with a one-story porch and a modern canopy over the entrance drive. The windows have paired 1/1 aluminum replacement windows. The original windows in the Skyline building were 9/9, as seen in a circa 1953 postcard retained in the nursing home director's files. The second story windows were originally grouped in the east elevation in threes with a single window in the center bay. On the first story, the center entrance was flanked by windows adjoining the door surround and the outer bays each had a pair of windows. At the attic level were a pair of fan lights. The interior of the Skyline building once contained a lounge in the front section. It now has completely changed wall surfaces, dropped ceilings, and partitioned office space in the front and a cross hall with residents' rooms across the rear of the building, linking with the Roosevelt building via the one-story connecting building. An enclosed activity room at the rear of the Skyline building once was an open sun porch.

The Roosevelt building (so named for occasional visits to Vindobona by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the mid-1930's) is a gable roofed building with aluminum siding and a modern porte cochere at the east gable elevation. Like the Skyline building, it has a composition roof and replacement 1/1 aluminum sash. It has residents' rooms arranged along the south side of a central hall, with utility spaces on the north side adjoining the connecting building with the Skyline section. The interior floor plan only vaguely resembles the original configuration, as the hall has been widened and the rooms altered in size.

In 1980, a third building surviving from the original hotel complex was still standing and was described in the MHT inventory form completed at that time. This building was demolished shortly thereafter. A low fieldstone wall in front of the two remaining buildings, stone gateposts near the northeast corner of the property, and a one-story frame residence southwest of the Roosevelt building are the only features remaining of the hotel complex. The residence, which has been great

(Continued on separate sheet)

8. Significance

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"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Ca. 1910 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Vindobona is a fairly good example of the varied architecture of the summer resort of Braddock Heights, an early 20th century community which was developed by the Frederick and Middletown Railway to stimulate patronage of the rural trolley line between Frederick and Middletown, of which Braddock Heights was the approximate mid-point prior to the line's extension to Myersville and Hagerstown by 1920. Built about 1910 as a hotel by Oscar Coblenz, one of the officers of the Railway, the Vindobona had as many as seven buildings in its heyday, but only two much-altered connected buildings survive as a nursing home, their rooflines and orientation intact and an exterior stone chimney typical of mountain lodges suggesting the complex's former use.

The Vindobona was actually located south of the boundary of the platted area of Braddock Heights, but even in its early isolation as one of the first structures on lower Jefferson Boulevard it was considered a part of the resort community. The separation from the center of the village added to its fame, attracting prominent visitors who relished the spectacular views, the proximity to Washington, and the relative privacy. Grace Tully, a secretary to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, recuperated from tuberculosis at the Vindobona for a short period in 1934 and was visited by Roosevelt at the hotel. Other well-known figures in government and society are reputed to have stayed at the Vindobona, although no guest records are available to confirm this.

Compared to the remaining hotels and inns in Braddock Heights, the Vindobona buildings have been more altered in finish and exterior additions as well as extensive change in the interior. Because the Vindobona was so large a group, it differed from most of the other resort residences which were mostly contained in one or two buildings. Its fame as a retreat for the publicity-shy of the 1930's and 1940's and the somewhat unusual configuration retain a moderate level of integrity for the complex. The only other building in the Braddock Heights vicinity to resemble the Vindobona in historical use if not in design is Casa Loma (F-4-11).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-13

Hooper, Anne B. Braddock Heights: A Glance Backward. Privately published, 1974.
Interview with Mrs. Kefauver, Director of Vindobona Nursing Home, Jan. 31, 1992.
MHT Inventory form, F-4-13, 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 8 acres

Quadrangle name Middletown, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Concurrent with Tax Map 75 Parcels 44 & 46 which include bulk of original Vindobona Hotel grounds

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 Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept date February 1992

street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958

city or town Frederick state Md. 21701

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

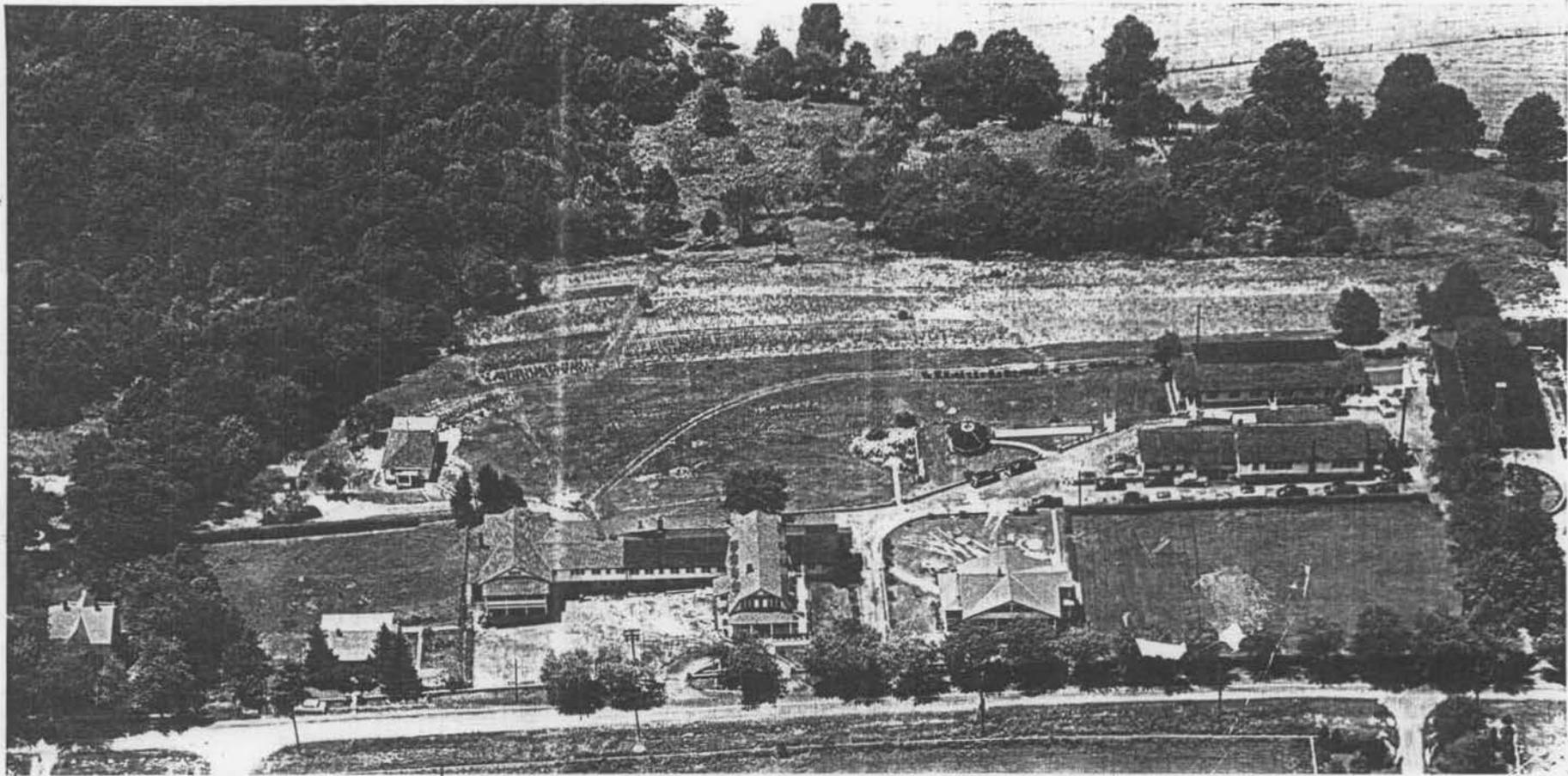
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCT
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
-514-7600

Vindobona Hotel
Frederick County

Survey No. F-4-13

7.1 Description Continued

altered and no longer contributes to the significance of the group, was built probably during the 1920's or 1930's and was until recently leased to a Vindobona employee. An aerial view of the early 1950's shows the extent of the former hotel complex, which contained a dance pavilion, a dining room, and a gazebo, all of which have been demolished.



F-4-13
Vindobona Hotel
Frederick County
Aerial view from east, Ca. 1950-1955
Original at Vindobona Nursing Home office



F-4-13
Vindobona Hotel
Frederick County
Postcard view of Skyline Building, Ca. 1953
Original at Vindobona Nursing Home office

F-4-13
Vindabona Nursing Home (Oscar Coblentz House)
Braddock Heights
Private

1910

The Vindabona Nursing Home Building was built by Oscar Coblentz soon after 1910 when he purchased the property from the Braddock Building and Development Company.

The building is particularly significant to the Braddock Heights community as an example of the progressive Shingle style popular between 1880-1900.

The house was built during the building boom of Braddock Heights which, after the introduction of the Frederick and Middletown Electric Railway in 1896, became a popular summer resort.

The building is particularly characterized by a gable roof with long slopes and numerous porches and gables.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Vindabona Nursing Home
(Oscar Coblentz House)
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
North Side Jefferson Blvd.
CITY, TOWN Braddock Heights CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
VICINITY OF
STATE Maryland COUNTY Frederick

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO - Demolished	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Vindabona Nursing Home, Inc. Telephone #:
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Braddock Heights VICINITY OF Maryland STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Frederick County Courthouse Liber #: 659
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Folio #: 344
STREET & NUMBER North Court St.
CITY, TOWN Frederick STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

F-4-13

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Vindabona Nursing Home Building is a two story frame building which faces south from the north side of Jefferson Boulevard in Braddock Heights with a panoramic view of Middletown Valley on the north.

The building is particularly characterized by a gable roof with long slopes and numerous porches and gables. Although the house is now covered with asbestos, many elements indicate a Shingle style of architecture.

The principal facade is nine bays wide. The main entrance, twin fifteen light doors with fifteen light sidelights, is located in the fourth bay. Flanking the main entrance on the first level are twin 9/6 windows and twin small 1/1 windows occupying the first and second and eighth and ninth bays.

One story open porch shelter by the overhanging gable roof extends across the entire front of the building and is supported by six boxed columns.

Located in the center of the gable on the second level are six bays. Located in the first two and last two bays are small wide 1/1 windows. Twin double hung 6/6 windows occupy the second, third, fourth, and fifth bays.

Each elevation of the house is characterized by a gently sloping gable roof. A one story porch is located on the east side of the house supported by three boxed columns. Two story porches are located on the east and north side of the house. Each first level porch is supported by plain boxed columns and surrounded by a paneled railing. The second level porch on the east side at the second level is enclosed in screen. The second level porch on the north side of the building is enclosed with ten pane window sashes. The house is dominated by its porches which were important to its function as a summer residence.

The house is covered by staggered butt asphalt shingles which have been replaced in spots. The entire house is constructed on a tile block foundation which is banked. A small interior chimney rises from the center of the building.

In order to accommodate the nursing home function, substantial changes have been made to the interior of the building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Williams, T.J.C., History of Frederick County Maryland, Regional Publishing Co.: Baltimore, Maryland, 1967, Reprint of 1910.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE clh
Cherilyn E. Widell, Coordinator

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Frederick County Office of Historic Preservation	5/20/80

STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church St.	694-1063

CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Frederick	Maryland

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.

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



4369 MIDDLETOWN QUAT

(FREDERICK)
5562 IV NW

4367

4366

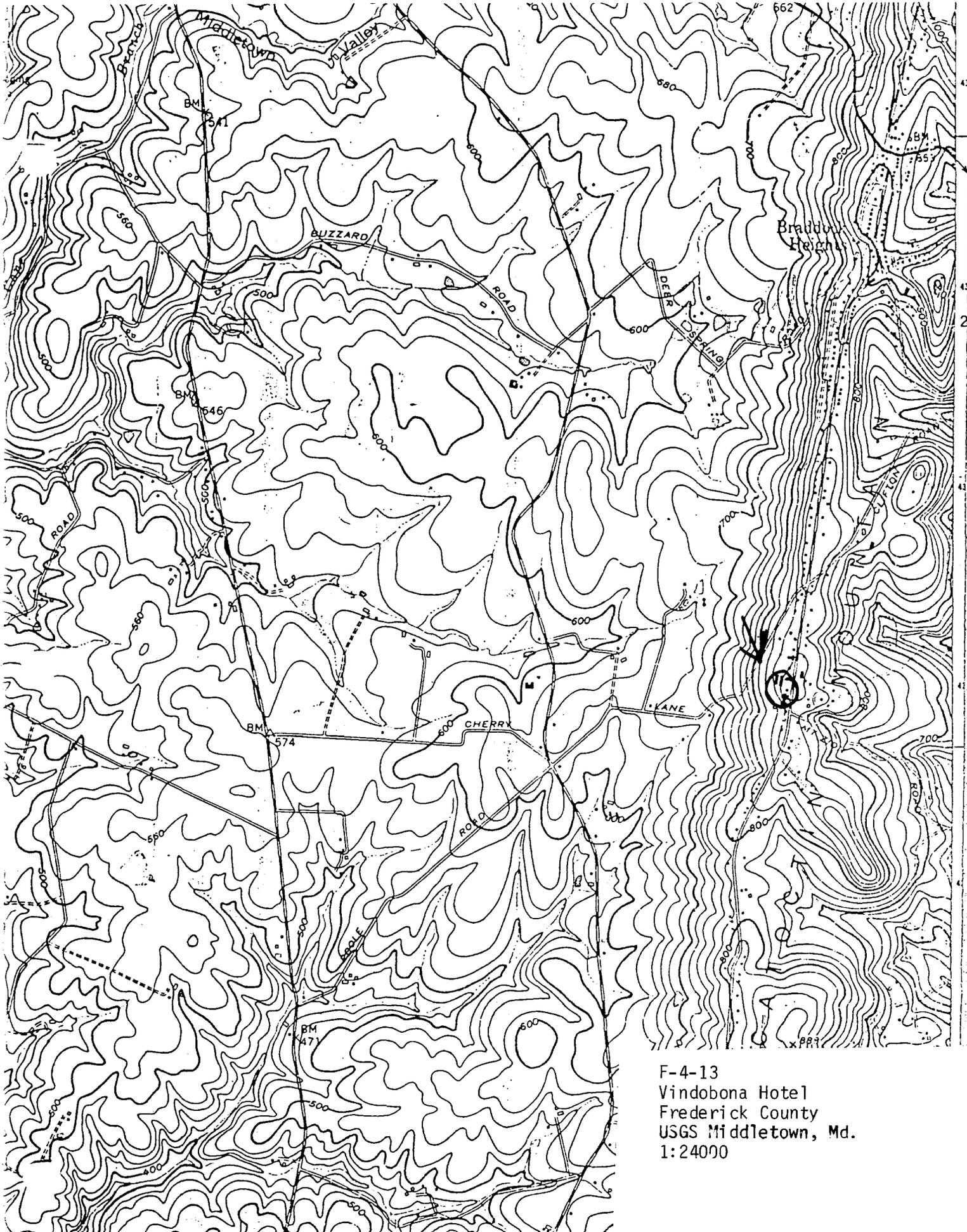
25'

4365

3

VINDA BOLA
NOLAN HOMA

F-4-13



F-4-13
Vindobona Hotel
Frederick County
USGS Middletown, Md.
1:24000





P. 413

Vindobona District

Friedrich County

Photo: Janet Sears

January 1992

Nea. loc: Ad. - 114. 1/11 - 1/12, 1/13.

Roosevelt Bldg. 2nd + elevation

2/3



7. d.

Washburn Light

Frederick County

State Land Trust

Jan. 21, 1992

Nea. 20. 75. 21. 21. 21. 21. 21. 21. 21. 21.

West elevation

3/3



R-4-13

Vindabona Nursing Home

N/S Jefferson Blvd

Brookline Heights

CAW 3/80

Northwest elev



F413

VINDA BOWA

Nursing Home

N/S Jefferson Blvd

Braddock Heights

CEN 3/00

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA