

Roberts-Lloyd House
HA 1894

This circa 1910 two-story frame house is located on the west side of Main Street in Cardiff, Maryland. Set on a raised, coursed slate foundation, the house is two bays wide by two bays deep with a one story porch on the eastern, main facade and the southern side. The house was built for Robert L. Roberts, on land that was given to him by his father Richard Roberts. Richard Roberts, co-founder of Roberts and Wilhelm, which evolved to Richard Roberts and Son, operated the metal foundry and machine shop on the land below and adjoining this Main Street lot. Robert L. Roberts succeeded his father as the owner and operator of the foundry. As owners of the metal foundry in Cardiff, the Roberts were a prominent family in town. The metal foundry had a distinct and important place in the inter-workings of the town's slate industry, supplying invaluable components to the slate quarry industry, building cranes and operating machinery for the quarries.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Roberts - Lloyd House

2. Location

street & number 1638 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Cardiff

___ vicinity of

congressional district

5th

state Maryland

county

Harford

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 Darcy Lloyd

street & number 1638 Main Street

telephone no.: (410) 452-5018

city, town Cardiff

state and zip code Maryland, 21024

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse

liber GCB 301

street & number 20 W. Courtland Pl.

folio 147

city, town Bel Air

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date

___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. HA 1894

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.

This two-story frame house is located on the west side of Main Street in Cardiff, Maryland. Set on a raised, coursed slate foundation, the house is two bays wide by two bays deep with a one story porch on the eastern, main facade and the southern side. Running north to south, the gable roof parallels Main Street. A centrally located chimney rises from the roof of shingled slate. A two-story three-sided bay window is capped by a projecting pedimented gable on the north bay of the main facade. The southern remaining bay is articulated by the main entrance and an aligned window on the second story. A one-story bay window projects from the southern facade onto the porch, with a door in the eastern-most panel.

The entrance door has a transom with two two-panelled sidelights. The glass within the transom and sidelights are alternating panes of red and cobalt. (Several examples of this simple use of stained glass exist in other homes around Cardiff.) Windows have a 1/1 sash, with a wide window in the forward lower story bay window and a double window in the forward second story bay window. The opening onto the porch is on the southeast corner and runs diagonally to the street. Square columns rest on rusticated block pillars and a simple balustrade comprise this two-sided porch. The house is sided with painted wood weatherboard, light blue in color.

The rear of the building has a basement and first-story projection with a shed roof. The first story of this area contained a small kitchen and covered porch. At present, that area is now an expanded kitchen. A window remains from the dining room into the present-day kitchen, where the porch had been. A gable-roofed utility addition with a east-west running ridge extends the basement and first-story farther westward.

Some remnant Victorian decoration in the form of a cut-out gable finish in the projecting pedimented gable and three decorative lightning rods. The interior is modestly decorated with detail and woodwork. A decorated handrail and newel post provide a grand accessory to the living room upon entrance. Wide openings into the dining area from the living room and sitting room are accented with squared columns and dark, heavy wood molding.

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 type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates _____ **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. This circa 1910¹ house was built for Robert L. Roberts, on land that was given to him by his father Richard Roberts. Richard Roberts, co-founder of Roberts and Wilhelm, which evolved to Richard Roberts and Son, operated the metal foundry and machine shop on the land below and adjoining this Main Street lot. Robert L. Roberts succeeded his father as the owner and operator of the foundry.

The Roberts were a well-to-do Welsh family, owning several of the building lots in the vicinity of this house. Relative to many of the houses in Cardiff, this was opulent indeed. Located very near the Mason-Dixon line and the merchant houses of Delta, this house indicates the wealth of the Roberts family. According to Mrs. Darcy Lloyd, the owner of this site for almost fifty years and who was born across the street, "the Roberts owned the town" at one time.

As owners of the metal foundry in Cardiff (first Roberts and Wilhelm, then R. Roberts and Son, and lastly trading under Richard Roberts and Robert Roberts), the Roberts were a prominent family in town. Identified on and listed among the commercial concerns of the 1888 Delta map, the early Roberts and Wilhelm metal foundry had a distinct and important place in the inter-workings of the town's slate industry. The metal foundry supplied invaluable components to the slate quarry industry, building cranes and operating machinery for the quarries. (The original site as identified on the Delta 1888 map is south of the site established in 1890.) The foundry maintained its significance throughout the operating years of the various slate quarries and the Maryland Green Marble quarry. Now in its fifth generation of family ownership under Gary Thompson, R. Roberts and Son continues to operate in metal fabrication.

An interesting aside: Robert Roberts, son of Richard Roberts, was responsible for the renaming of South Delta to Cardiff in 1900.²

¹A 1906 postcard does not show this house, Old Line Museum, April 14, 1995.

²As mentioned in conversation with Donald Robinson, April 14, 1995, and verified by Gloria R. Thompson.

ROBERTS-LLOYD HOUSE

Title Search

GCB301/147	November 19, 1946	Grantor: Ernest W. and Beulah T. Roberts Grantee: Darcy and Allen B. Lloyd
GCB 271/160	February 6, 1942	Grantor: William A. and Hannah Watkins Grantee: Ernest W. and Beulah T. Roberts
MEWR 253/399	December 19, 1938	Grantor: Philip H. Close (attorney named in mortgage from Robert L. and Ellen Roberts to The Fireside Permanent Building Association; a default action) Grantee: William A. and Hannah Watkins
DGW 183/275	July 27, 1923	Grantor: Philip Close (trustee, as appointed in Equity Case DWG 120/350, Robert L. Roberts v. William J. Roberts) Grantee: Robert L. Roberts Granted: All assets of partnership, to include property and foundry machinery
WSF 104/455	July 2, 1901	Grantor: Richard and Ann Roberts Grantee: Robert L. Roberts Granted: 1/4 interest in land described in deed ALJ 68/47 and all land described in 95/224
WSF 95/224	January 21, 1899	Grantor: South Delta Land Company Grantee: Richard Roberts Granted: Several lots fronting Main Street, abutting foundry site/lots.
WSF 88/282	May 26, 1896	Grantor: Stevenson A. Williams (trustee, as appointed in Equity Case WSF 41/351 Elizabeth J. Parry v. Margaret Parry et al.) Grantee: South Delta Land Company (via James Poff, agent) Granted: a part of the lands described in equity case (less than 19 acres) to be subdivided into town building lots
WSF 73/148	January 1, 1892	Grantor: John Wilhelm Grantee: Richard Roberts Granted: his interest in metal foundry lands
Plat book DGW 2/64	1891	Survey plat of lots to be subdivided, South Delta Land Company

Will Records
WS 10/440

September 12, 1888

John Parry, quarryman, bequeaths to his son, Richard Parry, all his remaining lands, approximately 17 acres, and 1/6 of his shares in the Welsh Slate Company of Harford County

BIBLIOGRAPHY
Roberts - Lloyd House

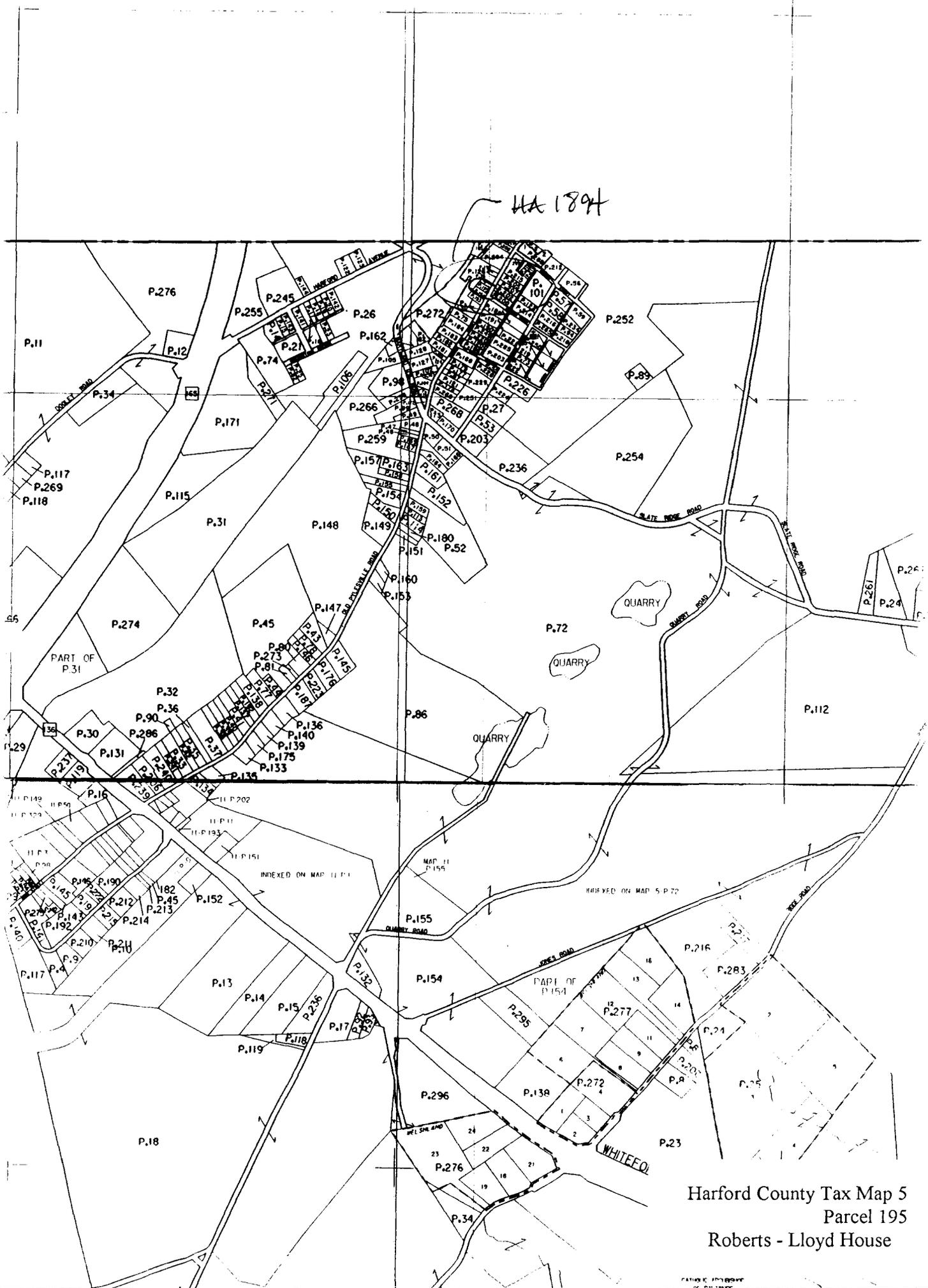
Conversation with Mrs. Darcy Lloyd, April 11, 1995

Conversation with Mr. Donald Robinson, April 14, 1995

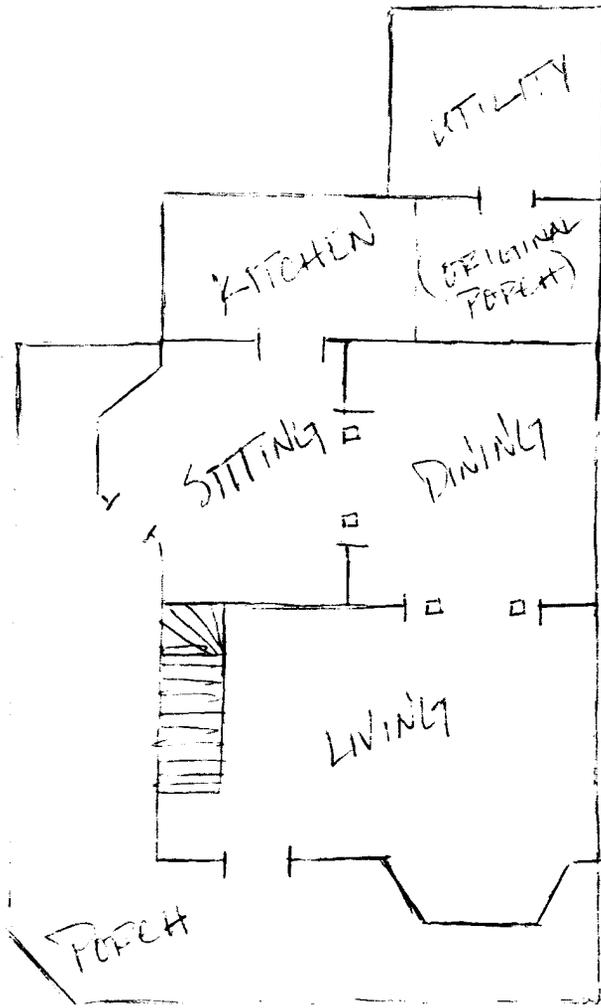
Conversation with Mervyn and Gloria (Roberts) Thompson, May 2, 1995

Postcard, Old Line Museum. Circa 1906 (according to handwritten documentation of postcard)

HA 1894

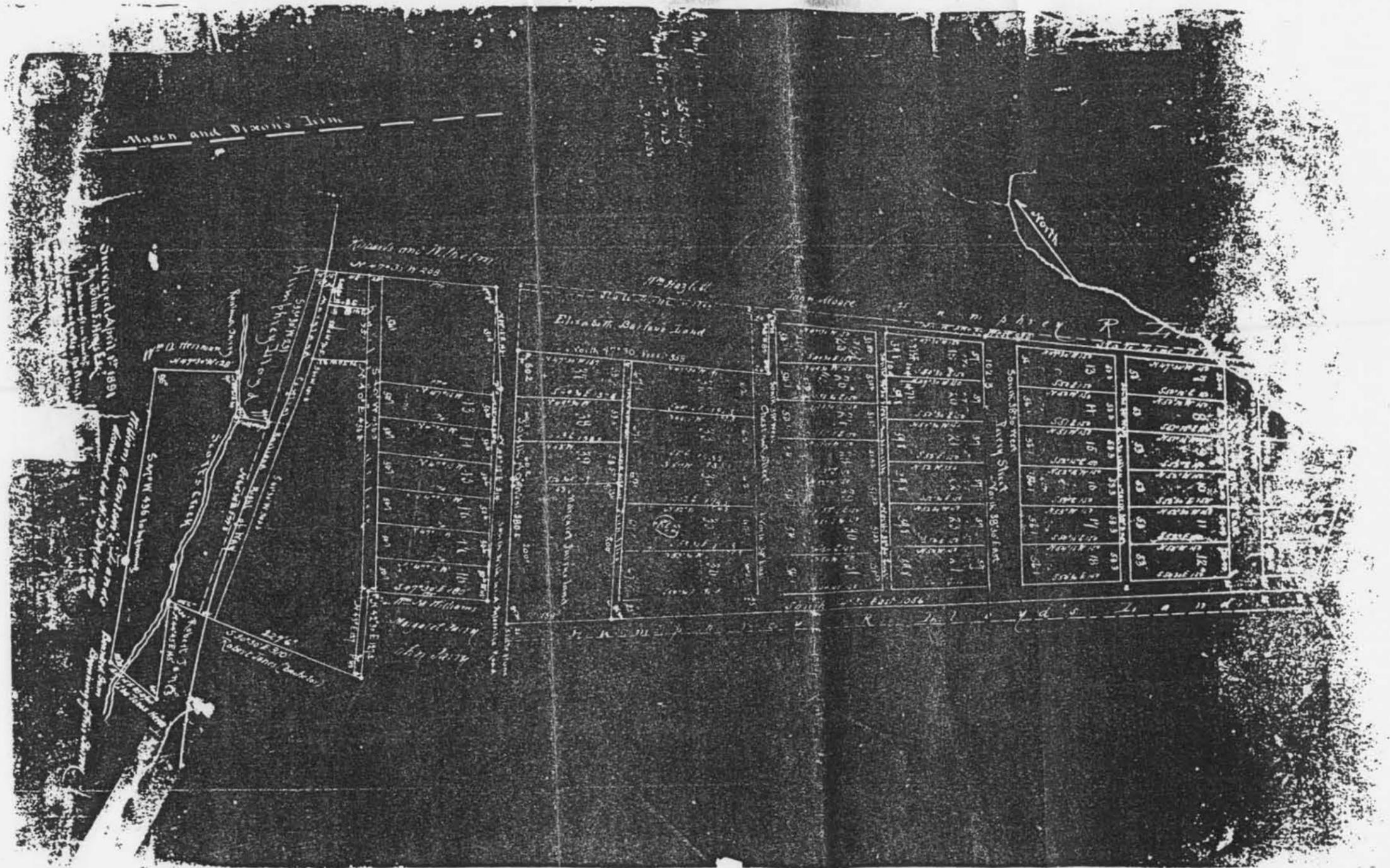


Harford County Tax Map 5
Parcel 195
Roberts - Lloyd House



FIRST FLOOR

Floor Plan Layout
Roberts - Lloyd House
HA-1374



NA-1894

South Delta Land Company
 Plat of Cardiff
 1891
 (Roberts-Lloyd House platted here)

150 000 FEET
(PA.)

4399

4398

FIVE FORKS 3 MI.
UNACE FORN 0.6 MI.

42'30"

4396

4395

5763 III NW
(FAWN GROVE)

HILL 6.4 MI.
RNER 2.1 MI.

P E A C H B O

PENNSYLVANIA
MARYLAND

YORK CO
HARFORD CO

Delta

Cardiff

Whiteford

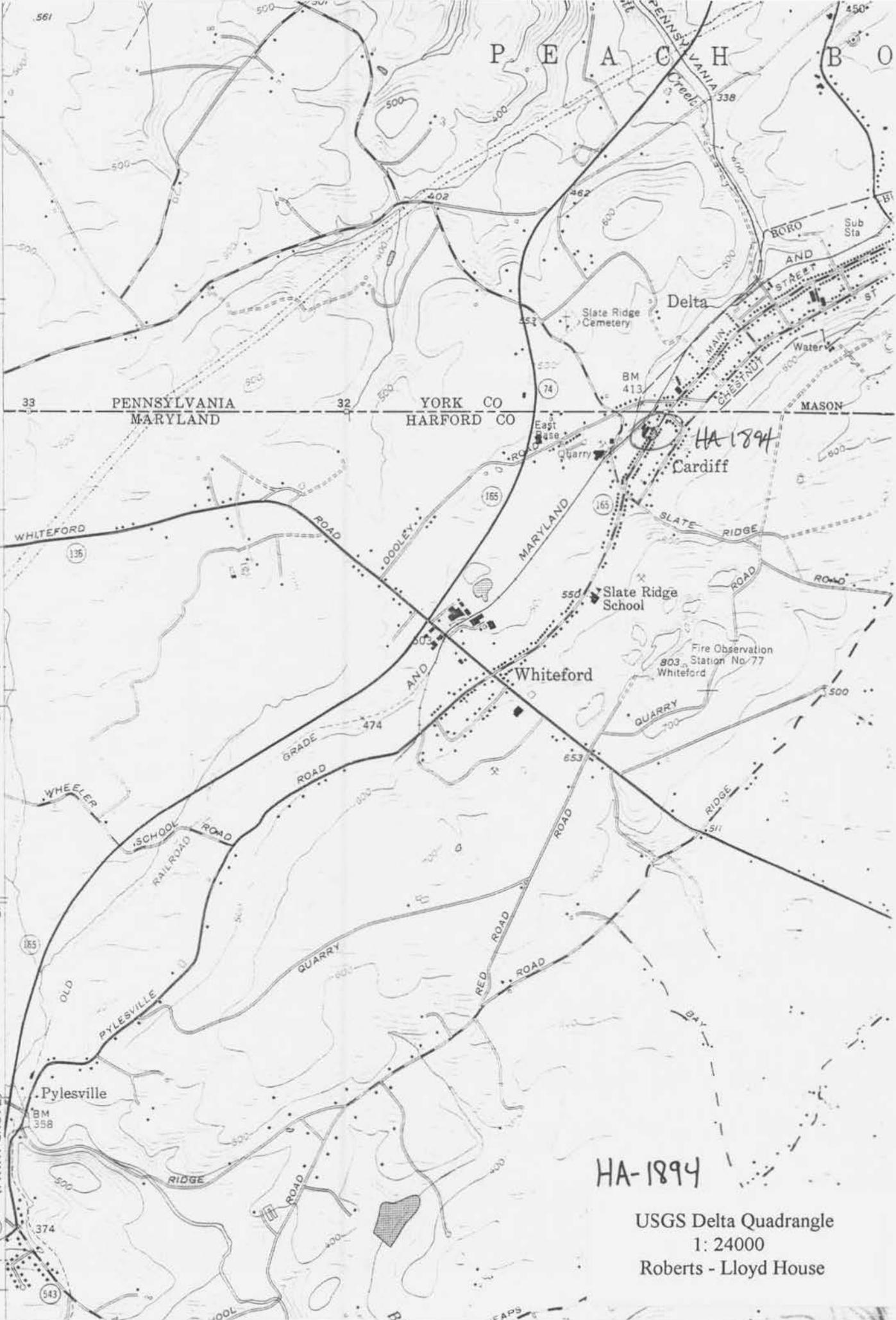
Pylesville

HA-1894

USGS Delta Quadrangle

1: 24000

Roberts - Lloyd House





1638

HA 1894

Roberts - Lloyd Home
Harford County, Maryland
Dramm H. Blair

Apr - 1995 Maryland SHPC

~~Chris Weeks, Department of Planning and Zoning, Baltimore~~
View northwest from across Main Street

1 of 4



HA 1894

Roberts-Lloyd House

Harford County, Maryland

Dianne H. Klau

April 1995

Maryland SHPO

~~Chris Weeks, Department of Planning & Zoning, Bel Air~~

Interior view of opening between living and dining
rooms, taken from living room.

2 of 4



HA 1894

Roberts - Lloyd House

Harford County, Maryland

Dianne H. Klair

April 1995

Maryland SHPE

~~Chris Weeks, Department of Planning & Zoning, Bel Air~~

Interior view of stairway on southern wall as
taken from living room.

3 of 4.



HA 1894

Roberts - Lloyd House
Harford County, Maryland

Danmore Blair

April, 1995

Maryland HPC

~~Chris Weeks, Department of Planning & Zoning, Bel Air~~
View west from Arthur Road, directly across street

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