

Site: M:26/21/2

Tyson Wheeler Funeral Home

Built: ca.1899

1331 Rockville Pike

Commercial

This 2-1/2 story frame vernacular late Victorian was built as a front gable and two side wing residence with Colonial Revival details. It was part of a small residential subdivision known as "Autry Heights". After H. Tyson Wheeler opened his undertaking establishment here in 1959, he extended and altered the building, resulting in the present symmetrical facade.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Tyson Wheeler Funeral Home

2. Location

street & number 1331 Rockville Pike ___ not for publicationcity, town Rockville ___ vicinity of congressional district 8state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 1)

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Catherine Properties

street & number 1331 Rockville Pike telephone no.: 762-3660

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 3306 3405

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 318 697

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. M: 26/21/2

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

The subject house faces east on Rockville Pike, originally two lanes, now seven, in a commercial area surrounded by shopping centers and office buildings. Situated on a wide two-lot site, its deep front lawn, mature shade trees and shrubs distinguish it in age and original use from its more recent neighbors: a seven-story office building under construction to the south, and a 1970-era shopping center to the north, both with front parking areas rather than lawn. The rear portion of the site is paved for parking. A four-bay, two-story cinderblock garage is east of the main building. Access from Rockville Pike is by driveways near the east and west property lines.

This 1899, frame, rectangular, seven-bay by four-bay, 2-1/2 story structure was built as a vernacular front gable and two side wing residence with Colonial Revival details. The area fronting the original recessed south wing has been infilled and the wraparound verandah straightened to full width. A one-story flat-roofed addition was constructed on the rear of the building when it was converted to commercial use. The cross gable roof of the original building is covered with composition shingles and the exterior finish is stucco with the exception of the infill, which is asbestos on the south. The foundation is parged with concrete and there is one brick exterior chimney at each end.

The front gable and side wing house is firmly entrenched in traditional vernacular architecture. However, the calm exterior with minor facade movement, regular fenestration, deeply returned eaves, exterior end chimneys, side-lighted and transomed entryway, and Doric-columned front verandah which formerly wrapped around the south side to meet the recessed wing, are all hallmarks of late Victorian Colonial Revival. Windows are predominantly 2/2 with plain surrounds flanked by wooden louvered shutters. The first-story windows are longer than those on the second.

The east (front) facade is formed of the flat-roofed, two-story infill extension on the south, front gable, and north wing. The two-bay south infill has one window each bay, both stories. The three-bay gabled front has a pair of windows in the gable, and one window in each bay, second story. The first story has one window in the two south bays and a side-lighted entry in the west bay. The entry door is wood with a nearly full-length central light surrounded by smaller lights. The side lights are wood panels below, and glass panel above. There is a six-light transom overhead. An electric "carriage lamp" fixture is on each side of the doorway. The two-bay north wing

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has one window in each bay, first and second story. A one-story, low-hipped roof porch extends nearly the full width of the front, supported by five Doric columns and resting on brick piers. The porch is reached by a stairway on the north and south ends, and in the center by two cement steps with brick balustrade. A wrought iron balustrade joins the front columns.

The south facade consists of the two-bay infill, two-bay main block, and rear addition. The flat-roofed infill has asbestos siding on this facade and has one window each bay, first and second story. The gable end main block has a central brick chimney which is stuccoed on the first and second stories as the house. On the first story, smaller 1/1 unshuttered windows flank the chimney. The rear one-story addition is cinderblock construction stuccoed like the house. Windows are modern metal frame tiered casements. The north and south sides have two evenly spaced windows. The west (rear) has a modern exterior door in the north bay, accessed by six cement stairs with wrought iron railing. The center two bays each have a 2/2 window. The south center bay has a pair of modern casement windows. A steel security door is in the south bay.

The west (rear) six-bay second story of the main block has one window in each of the two north bays, a pair of small four light windows in the center north bay, one window in each of the next two bays and a sliding glass patio-type door in the south bay, opening out to a small balcony on the flat-roofed addition.

The four-bay north facade has an exterior brick chimney between the two east bays. A pair of windows occupies the gable and one window is in each of the second story bays. The first story has center opening six-light casement windows flanking the chimney, and three pairs of longer eight light casement windows in the north bays.

Accessory Buildings;

To the south of the main building is a two-story, two-bay by four-bay garage and staff quarters building. It is a flat roofed, square cinderblock building with asphalt wood-grained shingles on the second story. Windows are wood frame, horizontal 2/2 double sash. The two-bay east and west facades have a single window centered on the first story and two evenly spaced windows on the second story. The south facade is unrelieved. The four-bay north facade has four overhead garage doors, each with three lights, and a single exterior entry door in the center on the first story. The second story has a single window in the east and west bays, and a pair of windows in each of the two center bays.

8. Significance

Survey No. M: 26/21/2

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 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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1899, ^{altered} 1959-64 **Builder/Architect** local history

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.

Significance

The Tyson Wheeler Funeral Home occupies the last of the several large turn of the century residences built in "Autry Heights". 1/ Although this area now borders a commercial artery, the residential character of this house is a reminder of earlier life along The Rockville Pike.

History and Support

Subdivision of the elevated lands approximately one mile east of Rockville began in 1890 with the platting of "Monument View" and the adjoining "Autry Heights". 2/ The latter enclave was composed of 45 lots each 50 X 125 feet laid out on 7 blocks with 3 streets. Four of the blocks fronted on the Georgetown-to-Rockville Turnpike, but directly behind the development the large Lyddane and Dawson family farms maintained a rural character.

Dr. William Bohrer sold a 5.42 acre parcel of this development just north of his own home in 1895. In 1898, new owner Etta Warren traded the lots to Kate Archibald in exchange for Mrs. Archibald's house and lot in another subdivision closer to the center of town. 3/ Over the next 8 years Mrs. Archibald constructed or financed the construction of several houses on these lots.

The Tyson Wheeler house is an example of the transitional style, incorporating both late Victorian and Colonial Revival features. The attached photograph (c.1959) shows the original 2-1/2 story house, with its gables, patterned tin roof, and classically-columned front verandah wrapping around the south side of the house.

The subject site is located in Block 3 of Autry Heights. This block lay between Congress and Owings Streets. The 1899 construction date is based on the Tax Assessment for 1898 which shows no improvements on the 5.43 acres, and a mortgage from Mr. and Mrs. Archibald to Jennie Dawson for \$2,000 in 1899. 4/ This mortgage was not released until

footnotes on attachment 8.1

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the 1909 sale of the Archibald residence. However, none of the half dozen mortgages Mrs. Archibald arranged with the Laurel Building Association or other individuals or the deeds to owners of her lots refer specifically to lot numbers. Measurements are taken from landmarks now lost and parcels identified by former owners' names, making definite dating or location of the several houses imprecise.

The Archibald house was bought by Alfred Ray in 1909; in 1915 Marion Barrow paid \$6,500 for the house and surrounding three acres. From 1931 to 1964 it was the property of Joseph and James Moulden, members of a family who also owned several contiguous lots in Autry Heights and along the Rockville Turnpike. 5/

The Rockville Pike remained a two-lane road until the mid-20th century. A transportation survey in 1958 reported that 16,500 cars a day passed the Congressional Airport, now the site of Congressional Plaza Shopping Center, then located just a half mile south of Autry Heights. 6/ The Woodmont Country Club owned 531 acres on two sides of the subdivision, this being the southeastern limit of the City of Rockville in 1959.

H. Tyson Wheeler was the Manager of the Pumphrey Funeral Home. With his wife, Naomi, he opened his own undertaking establishment in the rented Archibald house -- the address in 1959 was 917 East Montgomery Avenue. 7/ Over the next four years, local contractor Harold Ruff made some alterations and additions to the old house for the Wheelers. The front facade was extended one bay south to give a symmetrical front with a full-width one-story porch. The second floor of this addition was a screened porch (now enclosed). This addition was covered with composition shingling, although the main block of the house remained stucco. A large service wing was added across the rear of the house. On the south side, the frame garage was replaced by a two-bay unit, later extended to four bays. The interior of the house required little alteration, and the original double parlors remain along with the fine interior details such as center hall staircase and bullseye moulding on door surrounds. The property was deeded to the Wheelers in 1964.

The Wheeler lot now encompasses over 33,000 square feet. 8/ Its shade trees and landscaped lawn, with the nearby entrance to the Woodmont Club, provide an oasis on Rockville's commercial strip.

continued on attachment 8.2

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Attachment 8.2

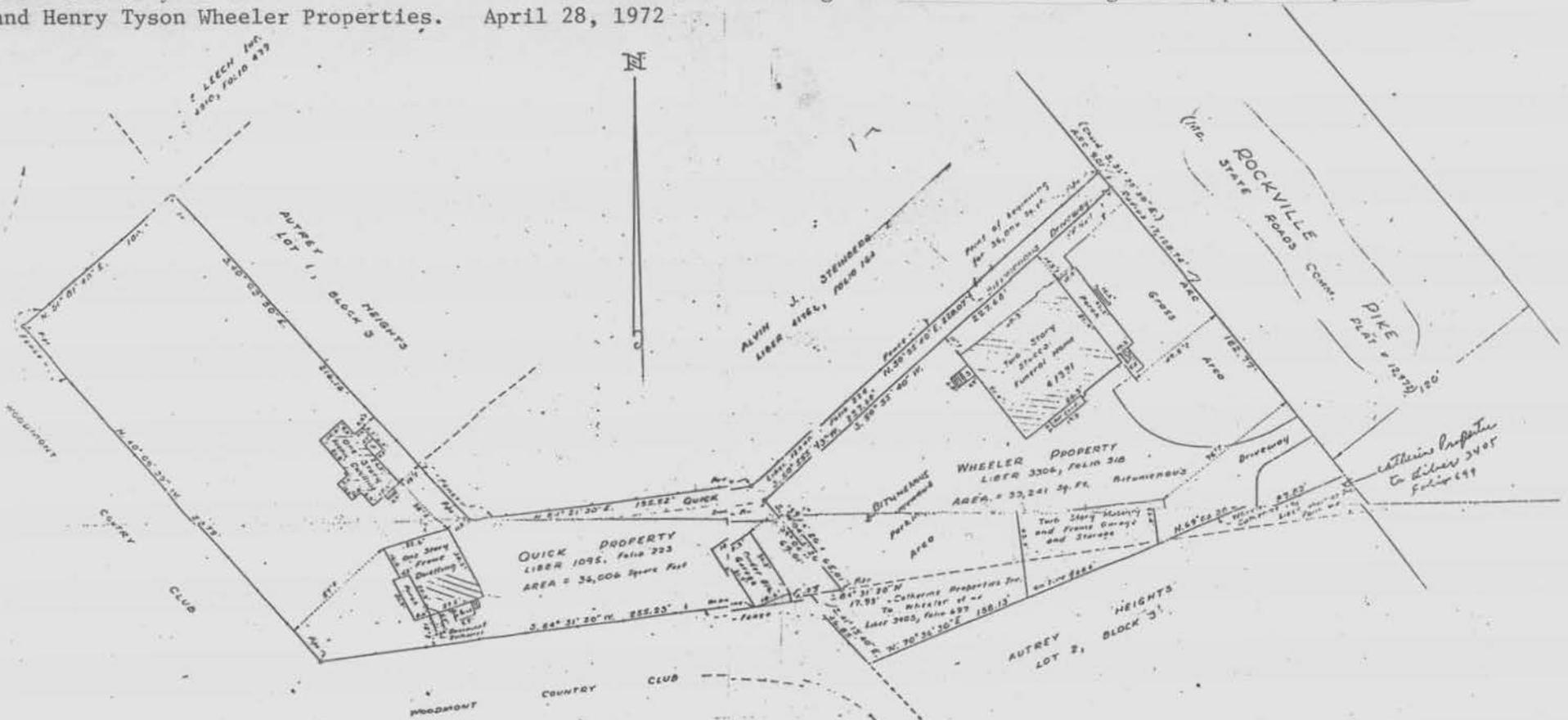
Footnotes:

1. Autry Heights is located on parts of original land grants "Token of Love" and "Constant Friendship". The name Autry derives from an adjoining land grant called "Oatra". Spellings Autrey/Autra and Oatra are all used on 18th and 19th century land records, wills and plats. "Monument View" is the north part of Autry Heights; no plat has been found, except its general inclusion in deeds 1890-1902.
2. Autry Heights deed for 20 acres at Montgomery County Land Records JA19/291. No Plat exists earlier than the 1902 Plat at Book A-57.
3. Land Records and Montgomery County Sentinel, September 16, 1898.
4. Montgomery County Land Record TD9/174 (1899) records the mortgage on the whole parcel "where Kate and Caleb Archibald now reside".
5. Some of the Moulden and allied families lots were in Monument View. They were received from the J. Sprigg Poole family whose estate lay across the Turnpike and was subdivided as "Autry Park". A station at Autry Park shown in the 1917 Atlas presumably was for trains.
6. Master Plan Report, City of Rockville Planning Commission - 1960. Survey made by the State Roads Commission.
7. Information about the Wheelers, the remodeling of the house and photographs were provided by James Denham, Manager of Tyson Wheeler, April 1986.
8. Mrs. Wheeler died in 1978; Mr. Wheeler in 1980. They had no children and the funeral home is now part of Services Corporation International chain.

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Plat of Survey of Part of A Tract of Land "Token of Love" showing Location of Buildings of Ruppert C. Quick and Henry Tyson Wheeler Properties. April 28, 1972



I hereby certify that the plan shown hereon is based on field survey data and is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that the position of all the existing improvements has been carefully determined by this survey and that there are no encroachments.

R. Humphrey Cisse
R. Humphrey Cisse, R.L.S. No. # 4687



PLAT OF SURVEY OF PART OF A TRACT OF LAND
"TOKEN OF LOVE"

SHOWING LOCATION OF BUILDINGS ON
RUPPERT C. QUICK & HENRY TYSON WHEELER PROPERTIES
CITY OF ROCKVILLE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

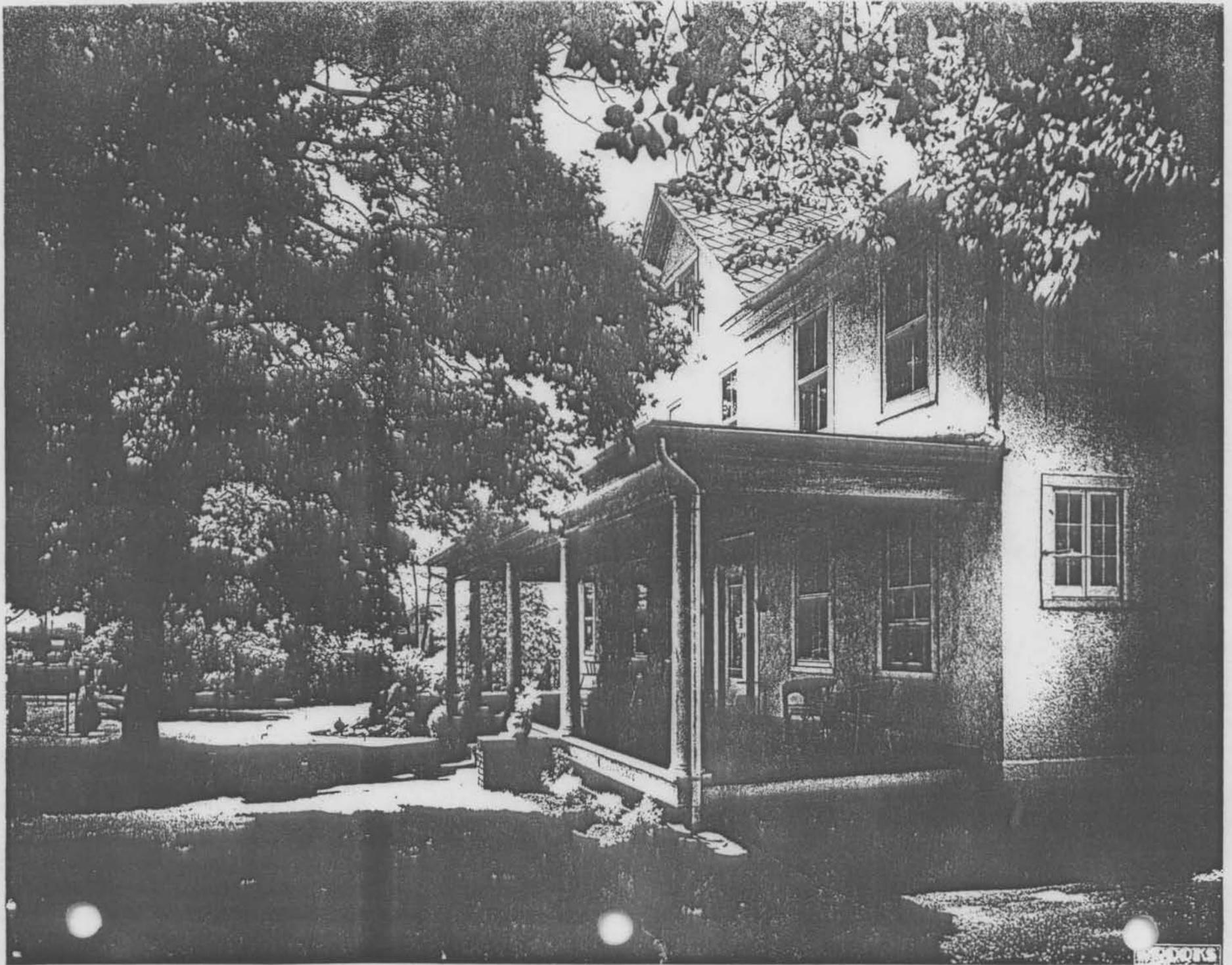
SCALE: 1" = 30'

R. HUMPHREY CISSE, SURVEYOR
2150 ARCADE STREET
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814

APRIL 28, 1972

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Photograph of Tyson-Wheeler Funeral Home, 1964. Courtesy James Denham, Manager Tyson-Wheeler



N6

TYSON - WHEELER - 1964

BOOKS

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Tyson Wheeler

Attachment 8.5

Photograph of Tyson Wheeler Funeral Home before 1968. Courtesy James Denham, Manager Tyson Wheeler



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Tyson Wheeler

Attachment 8.6

Photograph of Tyson Wheeler Funeral Home before 1968. Courtesy James Denham, Manager Tyson Wheeler



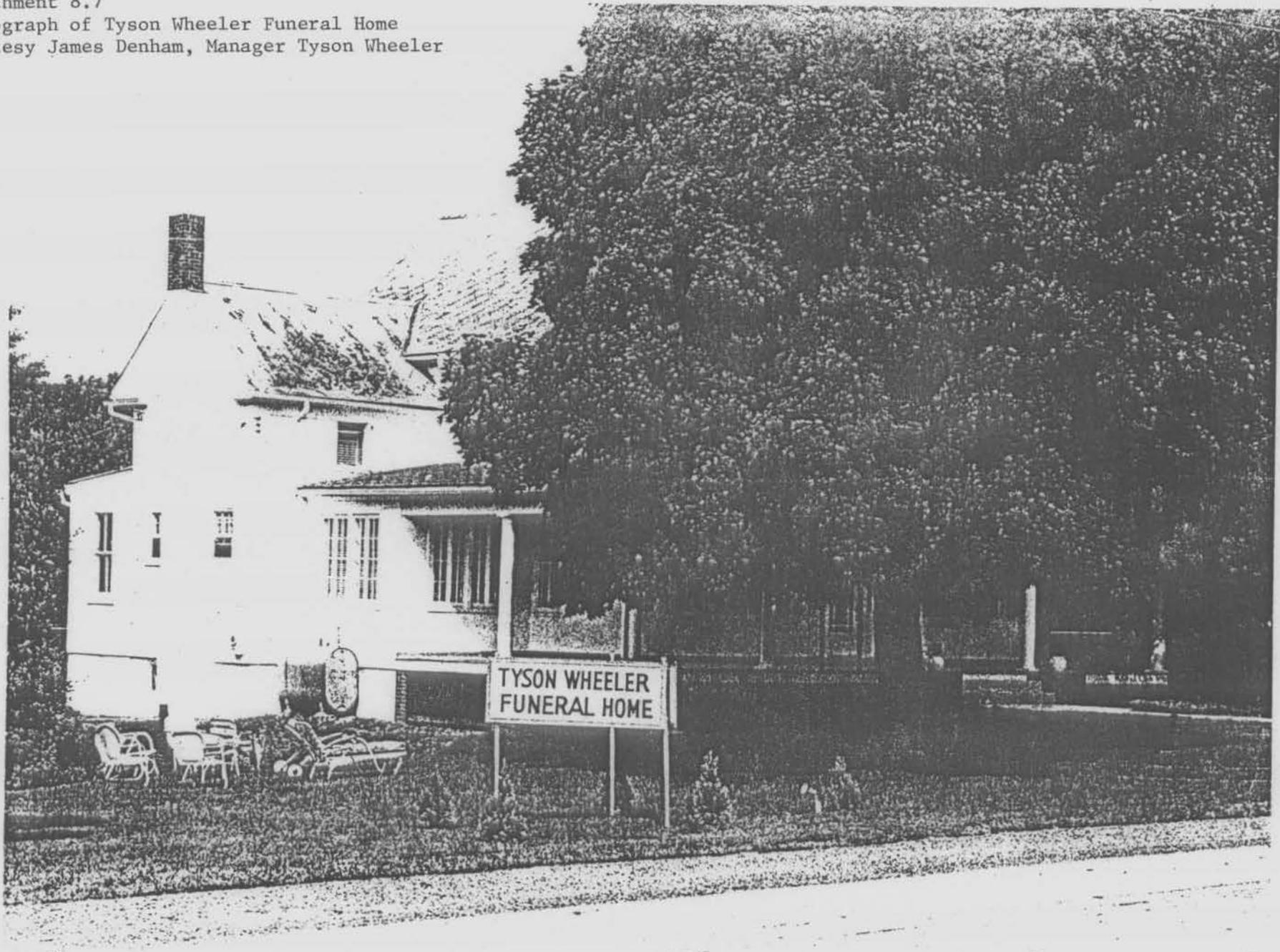
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Tyson Wheeler

Attachment 8.7

Photograph of Tyson Wheeler Funeral Home

Courtesy James Denham, Manager Tyson Wheeler



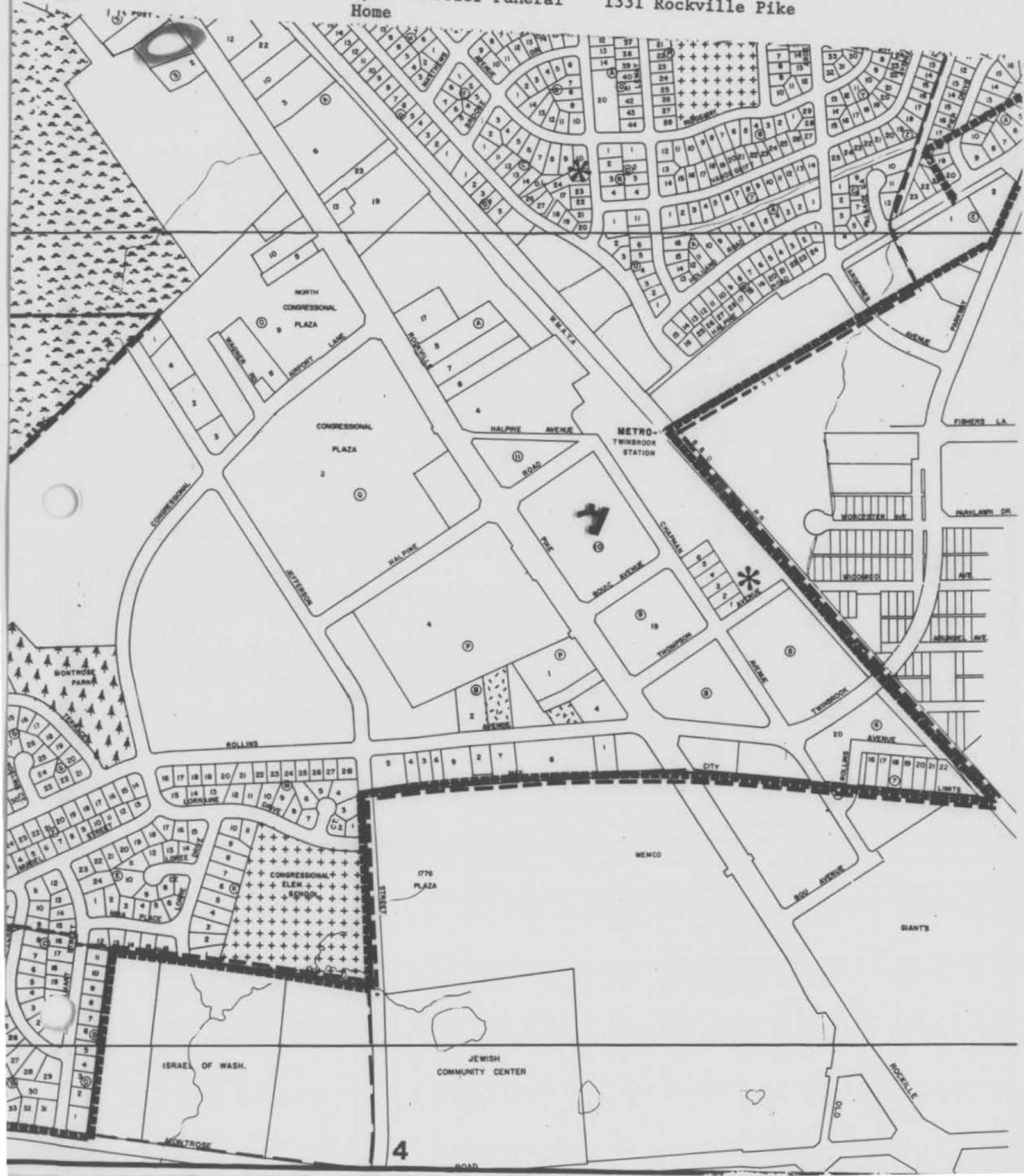
1982

City of Rockville scale: 1"= 600'

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Tyson Wheeler Funeral Home 1331 Rockville Pike



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RICHARD H. ANDREWS
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1608 FARRAGUT AVE.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

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