

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. M:35-65

1. Name of Property (Indicate preferred name)

historic Taylor-Britton House

and/or common Boxwood

2. Location

street & number 3815 Bradley Lane not for publication

city, town Chevy Chase vicinity of

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Peter Terpeľiuk

street & number 3815 Bradley Lane telephone no:

city, town Chevy Chase state and zip code Maryland 20815

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse Tax Map and Parcel HN341; Pt. Lots 9 & 10, Bl.2

city, town Rockville state Maryland Liber and Folio 04834/0714

6. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Individually Listed in the National Register
- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- HSR or Research report at MHT
- Other:

7. Description

Survey No.

M: 35-65

Condition
 excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

Resource Count:

See attached

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/65: Taylor-Britton House (1906)

Boxwood

3815 Bradley Lane

Section 7:2

The Taylor-Britton House, known more commonly as Boxwood, is a substantial frame residence located on the north side of Bradley Lane in the Village of Chevy Chase, Section 3. Constructed in 1906, the house was originally a 2-1/2-story frame dwelling consisting of a five-bay main block with rear ell, and a two-story, one-bay west side wing with an open first story. The central block had three dormers with brick end chimneys and a single-story central porch. In the 1920s, the dwelling was elongated by a two story, four bay east addition, built in two stages but now reading as one wing; it was further expanded by enclosure of the first story of the west wing.

Today, the house consists of three parts: the central and main block, seven bays long, a rear ell, and two side bays. The west side bay, part of the original building, is slightly lower than the main block. The two story east bay was added in two stages: the westernmost part was built in 1922, to accommodate a morning room with sleeping porch above. In c1929, this wing was expanded to its current four bay appearance. Each of the three sections is covered with a separate hipped or half-hipped roof, clad with slate shingles.

The south elevation, facing Bradley Lane, is twelve bays long. The central block consists of seven bays defined by single 1/1 replacement windows. A double-story Classical portico is located off-center of this main block, extending between the second and fifth bays. This portico, built c1929, replaced the earlier one-story porch; it is supported by four stylized wood columns with acanthus leaf capitals supporting a plain entablature and unadorned pediment. This south elevation of the side wings consists of similar single, 1/1 replacement windows. Four gable dormers are irregularly placed on the roof: two are found on the roof of the east wing addition, while two are located on the central block, to either side of the portico. The dormers have steep gable roofs and round-headed, double-hung sash and most probably date from c1929 when the portico was added.

After 1937, the living space of the house was further expanded when the basement of the house was excavated and the attic converted from storage room. Between 1941 and 1958, a laboratory outbuilding was constructed which has been used as a guest cottage in more recent years. The western portion of the property, closer to Connecticut Avenue, is extensively landscaped with ornamental and deciduous trees as well as a variety of flowering bushes and shrubs. A small tennis court is located on the northwest portion of the site. An approved subdivision plan of 1996 reduces the lot to 0.9 acres, allowing construction of another dwelling west of the historic house.

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/65:Taylor-Britton House (1906)

Boxwood

3815 Bradley Lane

Section 8:2

Prominently located on a spacious lot near the corner of Connecticut Avenue and Bradley Lane, the Taylor-Britton House (1906), also known as Boxwood, is historically significant for the distinguished owners who have sustained and enhanced the property over nearly 100 years. The house is named for the first two owners. The residence is architecturally significant as an outstanding example of early estate architecture from the post-Victorian era.

The initial purchase of this property predates the Chevy Chase Land Company's Section 3. CCLC sold the two-acre parcel to Henry Clay Taylor on June 1, 1904. Section 3 was not subdivided and platted until November 1905. The Land Company had owned this property, part of the No Gain estate known as the Hamilton tract, since 1890 when it was conveyed from William M. Stewart and wife.¹

The Taylor-Britton property follows the principles established by the Land Company when it created large lots with substantial dwellings for its officers. The residence was constructed some four years before Dudlea, the James Dudley Morgan estate, was built on another two-acre parcel directly across Bradley Lane, at 1 Quincy Street. Henry Clay Taylor and his wife Mary Virginia McGuire Taylor bought the two acre parcel for \$5,000, in 1904. The deed included a covenant stating "No house shall be erected fronting on Connecticut Avenue at a cost less than Five Thousand Dollars." The intent was to assure that a house in such a prominent location would be substantial.²

Though Henry and Mary Taylor had plans to build and share a house on Bradley, the house was built by Mary alone in 1906. The Taylors were living on Lenox Street in Chevy Chase Village by 1903. The Taylor's initial purchase of land on Bradley Lane was on June 1, 1904, just days before the marriage of their daughter, Neville to Capt. Walter R. Gherardi. The Taylors then left for "a tour of the northern lakes" and visited their son Robert in Ontario. On July 10, Henry suddenly became ill and was diagnosed with peritonitis. Sixteen days later, he died at a hospital near Robert's residence. Recovering from the shock of her father's death, Neville Taylor Gherardi purchased land immediately adjacent to her parent's lot on Bradley Lane. The Gherardi's built their house which was completed in 1905. The next year, Mary V. M. Taylor purchased an additional 6,259 square feet at the back (north end) of the property and

¹Subdivision of Section 3, Chevy Chase, Plat filed November 3, 1905; certified by surveyor W. J. Boyd, October 26, 1905. Plat Book 1, Folio 71. Deeds JA 21:419.

²Chevy Chase Survey Report, Phase 2, M-NCPPC, June 1997. M-NCPPC Survey Form, 1 Quincy Street, 1996. Deed 178:114.

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/65:Taylor-Britton House (1906)
Boxwood
3815 Bradley Lane
Section 8:3

built the house in 1906.³

For much of our country's history, military officers enjoyed a high social status. One third of the original members of the prestigious Metropolitan Club, Washington's first literary and social club, were persons in active military service many of whom were officers of general or flag rank. The demand for a social club unique to military personnel led to the formation of the Army and Navy Club in 1886. The Taylors were members of both the Metropolitan Club and the Army and Navy Club, as well as the Chevy Chase Club. In addition, Henry Taylor was president of the District of Columbia Society, Sons of the Revolution.⁴

Henry Clay Taylor (1845-1904), a hero of the Spanish-American War, led a distinguished military career. A graduate of the Naval Academy in 1863, he defended the Union in the Civil War. He was third president of the Naval War College from 1893 to 1896. Taylor played a significant role in the 1898 naval battle of Santiago in the Spanish War. A faded photoprint of Taylor from c1899 shows a distinguished man of about 50 years old in his U.S. Navy captain's uniform. Taylor was promoted to the grade of Rear Admiral in 1901. In 1902, he was appointed Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Navigation. Taylor died on July 26, 1904 at the age of 59.⁵

The house was a two and a half story hip-roofed Colonial Revival with three dormers and a one story semi-circular entry portico. The tax assessment records substantiate the construction date. Improvements to the Taylor property were assessed at \$7500 in 1906. Furnishings were valued at an astounding \$2000. In 1910, Mrs. Taylor lived here with a maid and a nurse. Her daughter, Neville Taylor Gherardi, lived next door at 3807 Bradley Lane, in a house that was built one year before the Taylor House. Neville's husband was Lieutenant Commander Walter R. Gherardi who became a Rear Admiral in the Navy, like her father. The Taylors' other five children were grown and living elsewhere.⁶

³*The Evening Star*, July 27, 1904. Maryland Historical Trust form, Gherardi House, 3807 Bradley Lane, 1998. Social Registers of Washington, 1904-1907.

⁴Carl Charlick, *The Metropolitan Club of Washington* (1965).

⁵Deed 190:124. This parcel, purchased for \$500.72, was described as part of lots 9 and 10 in Block 2. See Plat Book 1: Folio 90. Henry Clay died on July 26, 1904. Library of Congress photoprint, LC-US262-68957, Prints and Photographs Division.

⁶"Supplementary Notes on the Story of Boxwood," Historic Houses--Boxwood, MCHSVertical File. 1919 aerial photograph, CCHS #296. MHT form 35/66, Gherardi House, 3807 Bradley Lane, M-NCPPC.

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/65:Taylor-Britton House (1906)
Boxwood
3815 Bradley Lane
Section 8:4

After Mary Taylor's death in 1914, her children maintained the house until 1919 when they sold the property to Alexander Britton. The property was subject to a \$15,000 deed of trust.⁷

Alexander Britton (1867-1925) was an illustrious Washington attorney, a Director of the Federal National Bank, and a graduate of Princeton University and Columbian (George Washington) University. A native of Washington, Britton was long familiar with Chevy Chase, having been, with his wife Louise Schneider Reed, and two daughters, Catherine and Margaret, an early and active member of the Chevy Chase Club. Britton was named to the Club's Board of Governors in 1909 and served as president from 1918 to 1925. An avid outdoorsman, Britton was also a member of the Patuxent Gun Club and the Blue Ridge Rod and Gun Club. When he purchased the Bradley Lane house in 1919, Alexander was a 52 year old widower with two married daughters. Louise had died two years earlier, in 1917.⁸

In 1922, Alexander Britton commissioned architect George N. Ray to expand the house, adding an east wing with a morning room on the first level and a sleeping porch on the second, as well as enclosing the first story of the west wing to accommodate a library. George Ray (1886-1958) designed several prominent Washington buildings including the Dupont Circle Branch of Riggs Bank.

In 1923, the year after Ray was commissioned to expand the house, Alexander Britton married Marjorie Sabin Pilson. Marjorie had three young daughters. In February 1926, a small cottage described as a playhouse was constructed by Frank Simpson.⁹

⁷ Deed 28:455. Deed 190:246 lists Frederick Taylor and wife, and Mary Taylor Chase, and husband, each of whom lived in Maryland; Roger Taylor and wife of New York; Neville Taylor Gherardi and husband, of Rhode Island. Also Presley Morgan Taylor, and Harry McGuire Taylor.

⁸ *Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital*, 1924, p.128-9. Proctor, *Washington Past and Present*, Biographical Sketch, 1930. Samuel Henry, who later owned the Britton House, mentions Britton's involvement with the Chevy Chase Club, when, for example, he was a member of the golf team that won the 1911 Middle Atlantic Trophy for the Chevy Chase Club, and when the Brittons attended a 1914 reception at the club for President and Mrs. Taft. *Old Days with Horse and Hound*, 1960, pp. 58, 89, 103.

⁹ Waggaman and Ray Archive - Commission 210, Library of Congress, ADE - UNIT 166. Building Permit 272, February 25, 1926. Sanborn maps, 1916 and 1927. Deed transactions

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/65:Taylor-Britton House (1906)

Boxwood

3815 Bradley Lane

Section 8:5

Alexander died in June 1926, at the age of 59. Marjorie remarried by July 1928 when she and husband Ipolito Salvoni sold the estate for \$85,000 to Samuel J. Henry, president of the F. H. Smith Company, which financed building construction in the eastern United States, and his wife Adelaide Jullien Henry. The Henrys revolved in the same social realm as the Brittons, having been active in the Chevy Chase Club. Samuel J. Henry, a long-time fox-hunter, was an early member of the Chevy Chase Hunt and in later years wrote the history of that group which disbanded in 1916.¹⁰

The house was further expanded about 1929, when the the east wing was extended and a two-story portico was constructed. This work has been attributed to architect Philip Jullien who was probably related to Adelaide Jullien Henry. A Washington native, Jullien was a nationally acclaimed architect who established his practice in Washington in 1918. He specialized in large-scale projects, including hotels, apartment houses, and office buildings. His best known project in the area was the Congressional Country Club of 1922. Jullien was a Chevy Chase resident by 1920, and is known to have done other work in the community, designing the house at 34 Quincy Street, in Chevy Chase Village.¹¹

The Henrys defaulted on their loan and the property was auctioned off in 1931. It was described as "a large remodeled frame colonial dwelling house of approximately twenty rooms, four baths." Marjorie Salvoni repurchased the property for \$79,000. This ownership too was short-lived as the Salvonis defaulted on their mortgage, and the National Savings and Trust Company took the property in 1934. Following is the description from the sales notice:

This property is located in a highly desirable residential section and is improved by a three story, detached, frame dwelling having approximately 20 rooms and 4 baths,

resulted in Marjorie's co-ownership of this property in 1924. Deeds 354:212 & 213. Building Permit #272, February 1925, Section 3 records.

¹⁰Deed 464:78. "Supplementary Notes". Boxwood Subdivision file, M-NCPPC, April 1996. Samuel J. Henry, "The Old Days with Horse and Hound: Being the Story of the Chevy Chase Hunt, 1892-1916," 1960.

¹¹Proctor, Washington Past and Present (1930), 4:365-6. Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital (1924), 134. Cavicchi, "Architect Designed Houses in Chevy Chase Village," M-NCPPC, 11-1997. The east wing is not shown on the 1927 Sanborn Map, but does appear on 1931 Klingé Atlas. An article on file at the Montgomery County Historical Society states that the tax assessment records for the property increased 135% in 1929 [Supplementary Notes on Boxwood].

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/65: Taylor-Britton House (1906)

Boxwood

3815 Bradley Lane

Section 8:6

equipped with modern improvements throughout, including an oil burner and also has a car garage thereon, together with a small cottage and is known as No. 1 East Bradley Lane, Chevy Chase, Maryland.

The small cottage was probably the 1926 playhouse.¹²

The property was sold for \$37,500 to Charlotte Engle for the National Savings and Trust Company. In 1937, the property was purchased for \$42,500 by Oscar Benwood Hunter and Sidney Pearson Hunter, who moved here with their four children from 31 Oxford Street. Oscar B. Hunter, was a prominent Washington pathologist and educator. During the Hunters' tenure, the living space was again expanded when the basement was excavated and the attic was finished off. Between 1941 and 1958, a laboratory outbuilding and a four-car garage were constructed. Hunter Laboratories was later taken over by Roche Biomedical Laboratories, an active company today. After owning the property for nearly 40 years, the Hunters sold it in 1976. The house and 1.2 acres were purchased by Paul Anthony and Janet M. Ritacco.¹³

The residence was featured in 1980 as a showcase model house by The American Society of Interior Designers, and was a Decorators' Show House for the National Symphony Orchestra in 1995. In May 1996, a subdivision plan was approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board which would reduce the lot containing the Taylor-Britton House to 0.9 acres, and establish a separate buildable lot west of the house, fronting on Bradley Lane.¹⁴

¹²Equity Case 7216, Judgement Record CKW 69:102.

¹³The remaining 0.9 acres, fronting on Connecticut Avenue, were sold to the Government of Nigeria. Deeds 654:455 and 4834:714. Proctor, Biography of Oscar Benwood Hunter, pp 456-7.

¹⁴Suzanne Zbailey, "Imposing Elegance in Historic Chevy Chase," *Almanac*, June 16, 1993. *Showhouse Magazine*, 1995. M-NCPPC Subdivision #1-96073, 3815 Bradley Lane.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M: 35-65

See attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 54,208 Sq. Ft.

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

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	Clare Lise Cavicchi, Historic Preservation Planner		
organization	Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission	date	1/98
street & number	8787 Georgia Avenue	telephone	301-563-3400
city or town	Silver Spring	state	Maryland 20910-3760

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/65:Taylor-Britton House (1906)

Boxwood

3815 Bradley Lane

Section 9:2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources:

Chevy Chase Club. *Supplementary List of Resident and Non-Resident Members of the Chevy Chase Club*. Washington, DC: W F Roberts. June 1903.

Directories:

Boyd, *Washington City Directory*, 1900, 1905, 1912, 1913.

Caldwell, S. D. *Directory of Bethesda District* (Bethesda, Md), 1911 and 1915.

Nelson, Justus C. *Nelson's Suburban Directory* (Washington, D.C.), 1912-1913.

Polk, R. L. *Polk's Washington Suburban Directory*(Washington, D.C.) 1927-1928.

Equity Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.

Evening Star. July 27, 1904. Henry Clay Taylor obituary.

Fisher, Thos. J. *Chevy Chase for Homes*. Washington, D.C.: Thos. J. Fisher & C., 1916.

Hagner, Helen Ray. *The Social List of Washington, D.C.* Washington, DC: A L Sauls, 1932.

Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland. Deeds. Plat Book 1, Folios 71 and 90.

Maps:

Caldwell, S.D. *Map of Bethesda District*, 1915

Deets and Maddox, *Real Estate Atlas*, 1916.

Hopkins, G.M. *Northern Virginia and Bethesda*, 1894.

Klinge *Real Estate Atlas*, 1931 and 1941.

Maryland Geological Survey Map, 1910.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1916, 1927, 1927-1959.

Proctor, John Clagett. *Washington, Past and Present: A History*. Including Biographical Sketches of Alexander Britton, and Oscar Benwood Hunter. Lewis Publishing Company: New York. 1930.

Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital. Washington, D.C.: The Washington Times Co, 1924.

Tax Assessment Records, Election District 7; Vols 1896-1906, 1907-1910, 1910-1918;

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/65:Taylor-Britton House (1906)

Boxwood

3815 Bradley Lane

Section 9:3

Maryland State Archives.

Washington Star. February 23, 1938. Obituary, Mary (Mrs. Alexander Thompson) Britton.

Who's Who in the Nation's Capital. Washington: W.W. Publishing Company. 1923-24.

Who Was Who in the Nation's Capital. Volume One.

Secondary Sources:

Carl Charlick. *The Metropolitan Club of Washington*. Washington, DC: Metropolitan Club, 1965.

George, Mary Roselle. "Developer Influence in the Suburbanization of Washington, D.C.: Francis G. Newlands and Chevy Chase." M.A. Thesis, University of Maryland, 1989.

Henry, Samuel J. *Old Days with Horse and Hound: The Story of the Chevy Chase Hunt, 1892-1916*. 1960.

Lent, Bud and Claire, "Boxwood: A House's History in Chevy Chase Village," *Showhouse Magazine*, 1995, pp 42-44.

Offutt, William. *Bethesda: A Social History of the Area Through World War II*. Bethesda, Md: The Innovation Game, 1995.

Wright, Gwen; William B. Bushong; and Clare Lise Cavicchi; "Chevy Chase, Maryland, Survey District: Survey Report: Phase Two," Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, June 1997.

CONTINUATION SHEET

3815 Bradley Lane
M:35/65:Taylor-Britton House (1906)
Boxwood

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

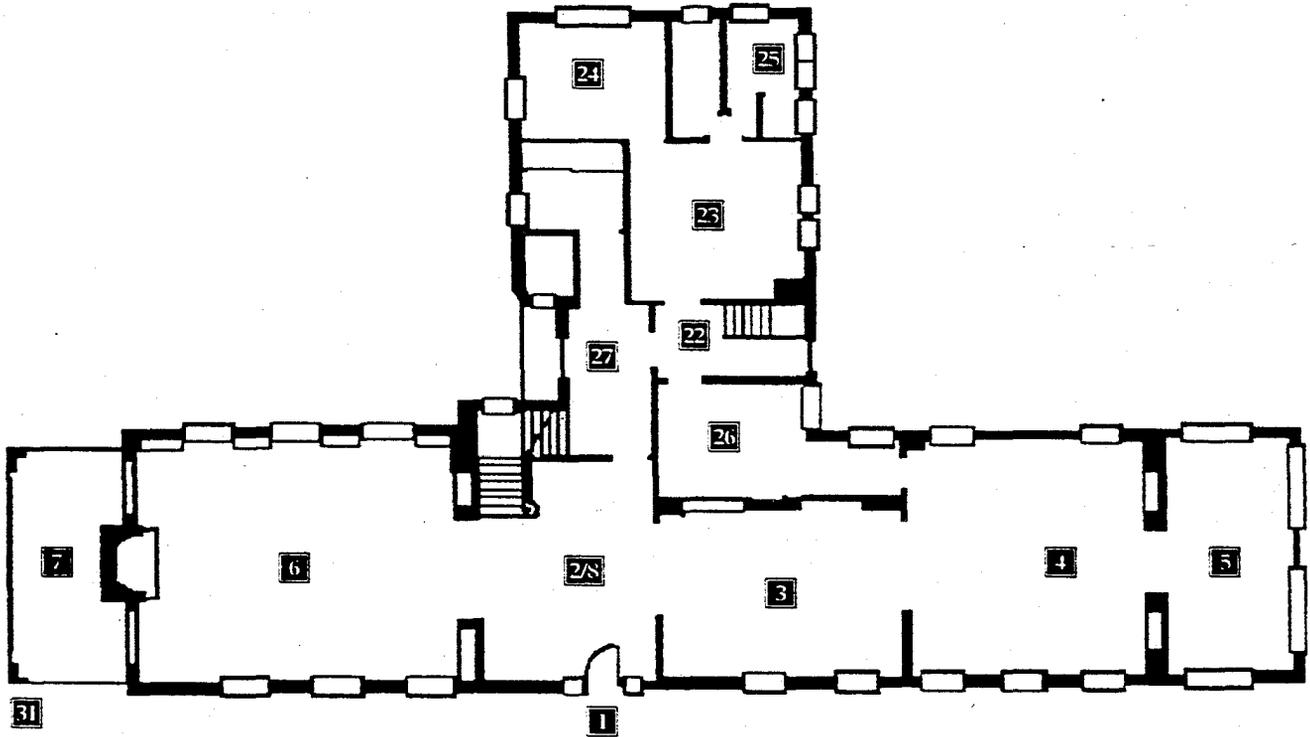


1 The Living Room
2 The Dining Room
3 The Kitchen
4 The Breakfast Room
5 The Parlor
6 The Study
7 The Library
8 The Music Room
9 The Main Staircase
10 The Front Staircase
11 The Back Staircase
12 The Bath
13 The Dressing Room
14 The Bed Room
15 The Terrace
16 The Porch
17 The Screened Porch
18 The Sun Room
19 The Screened Porch
20 The Terrace
21 The Screened Porch
22 The Terrace
23 The Screened Porch
24 The Terrace
25 The Screened Porch
26 The Terrace
27 The Screened Porch
28 The Terrace
29 The Screened Porch
30 The Terrace

CONTINUATION SHEET

3815 Bradley Lane
 M:35/65:Taylor-Britton House (c1906)
 Boxwood

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



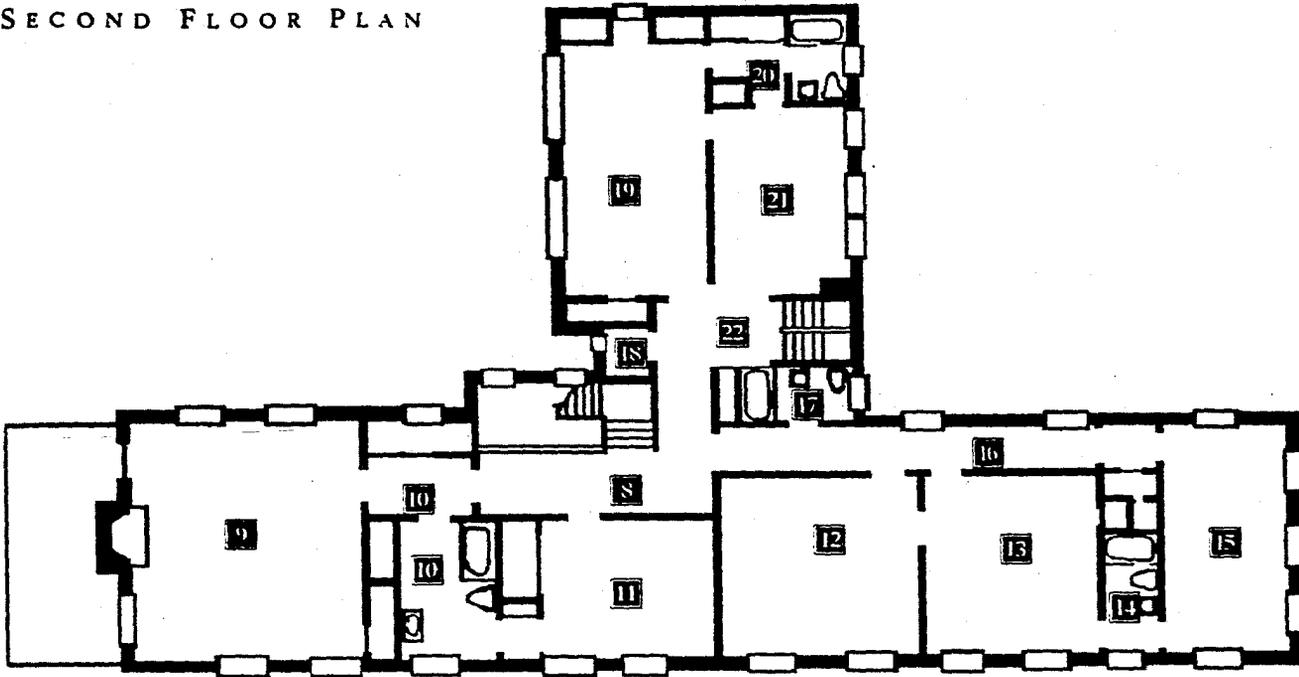
■ Each designer's room is identified by a number on the floor plan and at the top of the designer pages that follow.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--|----|---|-------|--|
| 1 | The Entrance Terrace
Greenscape, Inc. | 7 | The Garden Room
DeFord-Sharp, Inc. | 14/15 | Oephilia's and Phoebe's Fables
Bedroom and Bath
Urban Country |
| 2/8 | The Reception Room/Foyer and
Landing
Brown-Davis Interiors, Inc. | 8 | The Landing (see #2) | 16 | Dumbarton Hoax
Warnock Studios |
| 3 | The Library
Dulaney Design, Inc. | 9 | The Master Bedroom
David H. Mitchell and Associates
Interior Design | 17 | Dame Rose-Avier's Private Vanity
Waterford Interior Design |
| 4 | The Dining Room
Thomas Pheasant, Inc. | 10 | The Master Bath and Dressing Room
Better By Design, Inc. | 18 | The Letter-Writing Nook
Barbara Campbell Interiors |
| 5 | The Sun Room
French Country Living | 11 | The Master Sitting Room
Martin-Smith International, Inc. | 19 | The "On-Line" Family Room
Sarah Boyer Jenkins and
Associates, Inc. |
| 6 | The Living Room
Barry Dixon, Inc. | 12 | The Lady's Bedroom
Interior Impressions, Inc. | 20/21 | The Gentleman's Study and Bath
JDS Designs, Inc. |
| | | 13 | The Traveler's Bedroom
Justine Sancho Interior Design, Ltd. | 22 | The Family Stairway Gallery
Printmakers Inc. |

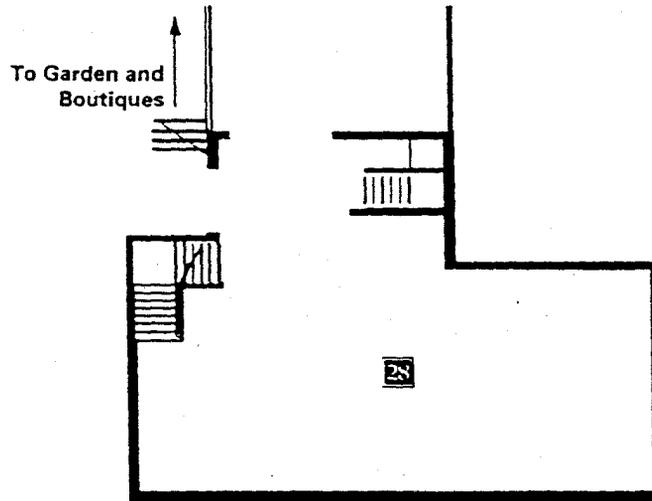
CONTINUATION SHEET

3815 Bradley Lane
 M:35/65:Taylor-Britton House (c1906)
 Boxwood

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



BASEMENT



23/24 *The Kitchen and Breakfast Room*
 Drysdale Design Associates, Inc.

25 *The Mud Room and Potting Room*
 Cottage Industry

26 *The Family Gathering Place*
 The Well-Furnished Garden and Home

27 *The Exit Hall and Family Stairway*
 NeoBeju

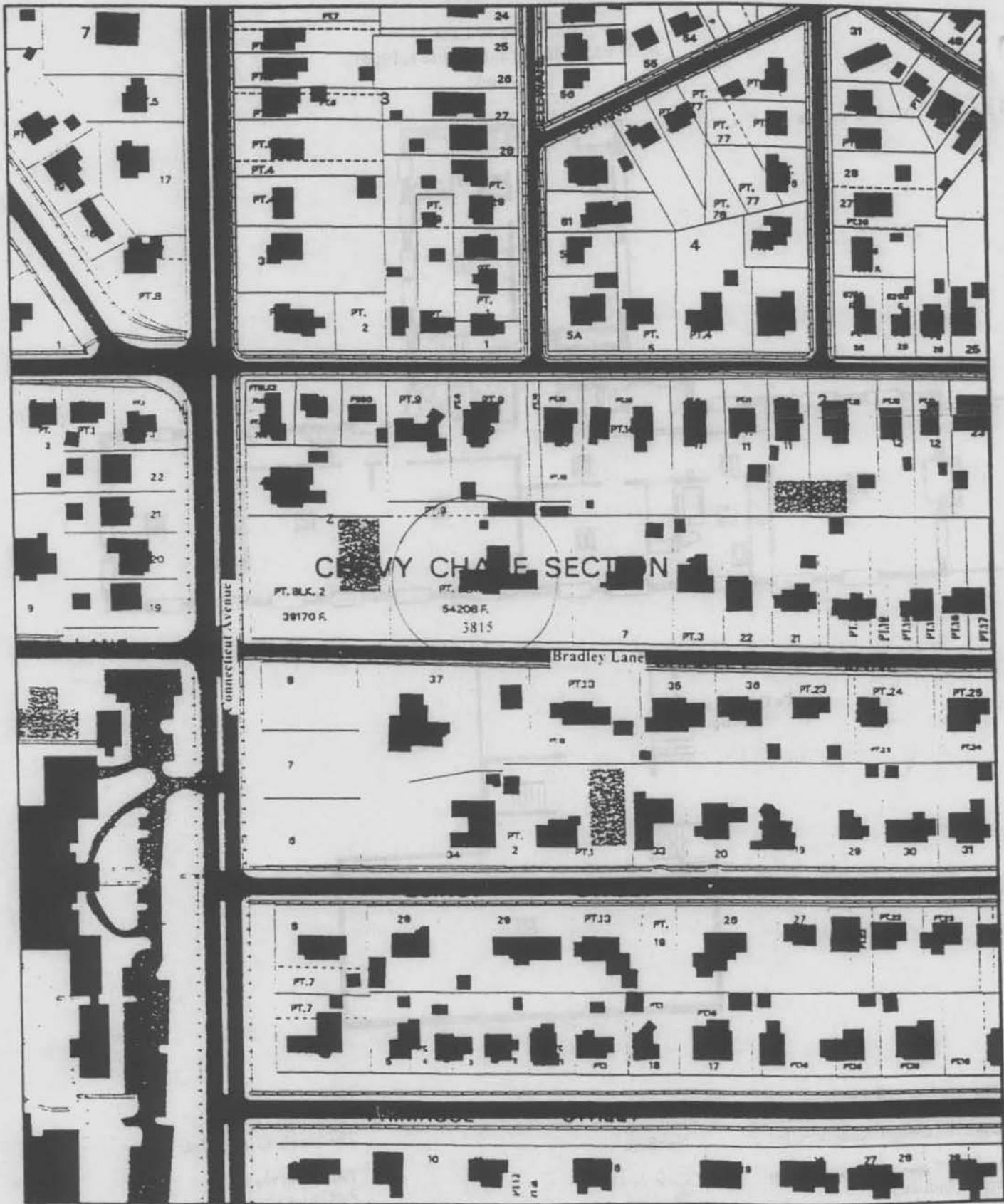
28 *Cafe du soleil du soleil*

29 *Courtyard Enchantment*
 J. H. Burton and Sons, Inc.

30 *Garden Rendezvous*
 The Noble Garden, Inc.

31 *Teatime in the Fall*
 Apple Landscaping, Inc.

OVERALL VICINITY MAP FOR (35/65) Taylor-Britton House



Map compiled on April 22, 1988 at 7:28 AM

DISCLAIMER

The planimetric, aerial, and topographic information shown on this map is based on copying from Map Products from the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and may not be copied or reproduced without written permission from MDCPPC.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING
 THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY.

