

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Gapland Turnpike Toll House (preferred)

and/or common Toll House Gallery/Van Gilder Pottery

## 2. Location

street & number corner of Gapland & Townsend Roads  not for publication

city, town Crampton's Gap, Washington County, Maryland  
vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland (South Mountain) county Washington

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 William and Mary Van Gilder

street & number P. O. Box 42 telephone no.: (301) 293-9570

city, town Gapland state and zip code Maryland 21736

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Court House liber 794

street & number corner Washington St. and Jonathan Ave. folio 494

city, town Hagerstown Maryland state 21740

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WA-III-123

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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.

The Gapland Turnpike Toll House stands on its original site in a setting little changed from the date of its erection circa 1892. It is situated within six feet of the old turnpike (now Gapland Road) indicating its intended purpose. The architecture and stonework are identical to those employed by George Alfred Townsend in his "Gapland" estate structures. With appropriate repairs and renovation, this structure could easily attain its former glory—the intention of the present owners.

The lot itself is triangular in configuration and is ascribed by Gapland and Townsend Roads at the western entrance to Crampton's Gap. It abutts Gathland State Park on the southeast and Townsend's "Mt. Gath" lot on the northeast. It affords a beautiful view of Pleasant Valley.

A bank barn erected earlier this century stands at the northwest corner of the lot approximately sixty feet from the Toll House along Townsend Road. The upper level is employed as a craft gallery while the lower floor serves as a commercial pottery. The Van Gilders use the Toll House as their private residence. They conduct their business activities in the barn exclusively and intend to preserve the natural appearance of the buildings and property.

The Toll House is structurally stable but in need of a new roof and generally upgrading. The owners wish to replace the present rear addition with another of greater proportions, but more in keeping with the original architecture and materials. An architect's elevation of these improvements has been prepared at the owners' behest.

The house has been struck twice by traffic descending from Crampton's Gap within the past few months prompting necessary repairs to the southeast face of the stonework. These repairs are pending the conclusion of the required insurance investigation. The State Highway Department has erected larger, stronger guardrails to avoid any recurrence of such accidents.

Of special note is the central window on the Gapland Road face of the structure. Vestiges remain of the original doorway used by the toll keeper for collecting tolls and maintaining the toll gate.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WA-III-123

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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.

The Gapland Turnpike Toll House bears significance in three major respects. It comprises a portion of the original property owned by Thomas H. Crampton for whom the gap was named and as such denotes an important portion of the Crampton's Gap Battlefield of the Civil War. The property was acquired by the Gapland Turnpike Company for use as a toll house and gate—a capital venture of George Alfred Townsend and his four partners—and as such bore close association with Townsend's adjacent estate.

1. Crampton's Gap Battlefield: The latter stages of the battle occurred on and near this property on Sept. 14, 1862. General Howell Cobb's brigade of Georgia infantry fought here late in the day being driven off by elements of the Union VI Corps. Captain Romeyn B. Ayres' Battery "F" of the 5th United States Artillery placed its guns at the crossroads next to the Toll House site at the close of the action. Confederate General Munford's cavalry brigade picketed its horses here prior to descending to the main battleground. Various units from both sides passed over the property during the precipitous retreat including Parham's Virginia Brigade, Torbert's New Jersey Brigade, and Bartlett's New Yorkers.

2. Gapland Turnpike Company: The turnpike was built from Gapland Station (formerly Claggett's Station) on the Washington County Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad to Crampton's Gap in 1892-93, toll being paid at the house in question. The articles of incorporation stipulated its continuance for a period of forty years. George Alfred Townsend was the corporate secretary and chief financial backer of the project.

3. Townsend association: The Toll House proper was erected concurrently to "Mt. Gath" house, one of several rustic structures erected by George Alfred Townsend as his summer retreat estate. Materials and construction strongly indicate that Townsend employed his own masons for its erection thereby making this building an unofficial extension of "Gapland." Townsend was a noted Civil War newspaper correspondent who erected the "War Correspondents' Arch" at Crampton's Gap, well within sight of the Toll House. He is best known for his Victorian novels, "The Entailed Hat" and "Katy of Catoclin."



Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form (continuation sheet)

Gapland Turnpike Toll House

9. Major Bibliographical References

Franklin, William B. "Notes on Crampton's Gap and Antietam." Battles and Leaders, Clarence C. Buel and Robert U. Johnson, 4 Vols., New York: The Century Co., 1884-1887. Vol. II, pp. 591-597.

Maryland Geological Survey. Report on the Highways of Maryland. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1899. p. 251.

Maryland Park Service. A Walking Tour of Gathland. (pamphlet), n. a., 1979.

War Department. The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 128 Vols. and Atlas. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901.

Vol. XIX, Part 1:

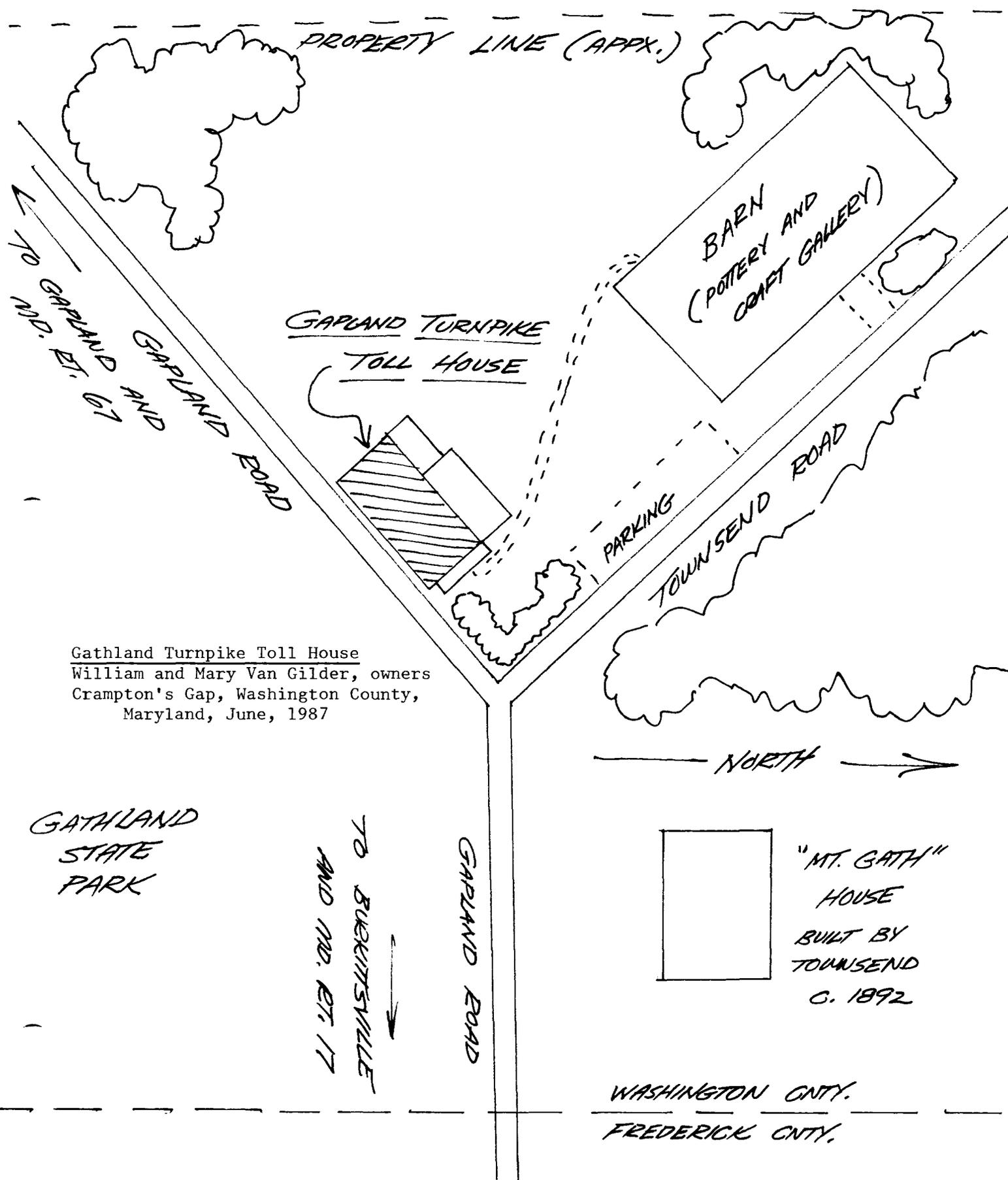
- pp. 403-404, Ayres' report
- pp. 374-376, Franklin's report
- pp. 825-828, Munford's report
- pp. 380-381, Slocum's report
- pp. 817-819, Stuart's report

Washington County, Maryland. Records of Corporation, Libre G.B.O. No. 1, pp. 397-399, 416-417. Articles of Incorporation, The Gapland Turnpike Company of Washington County, Maryland.

Williams, Thomas J. C. History of Frederick County Maryland, 2 Vols., 1910. Reprint. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1979. Vol. I, p. 404.

Williams, Thomas J. C. History of Washington County Maryland, 2 Vols., Hagerstown: John M. Runk and L. R. Titsworth, 1906. Vol. I, p. 331.





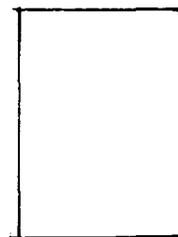
Gathland Turnpike Toll House  
 William and Mary Van Gilder, owners  
 Crampton's Gap, Washington County,  
 Maryland, June, 1987

GATHLAND  
 STATE  
 PARK

TO BUCKITTSVILLE  
 AND MD. RT. 17

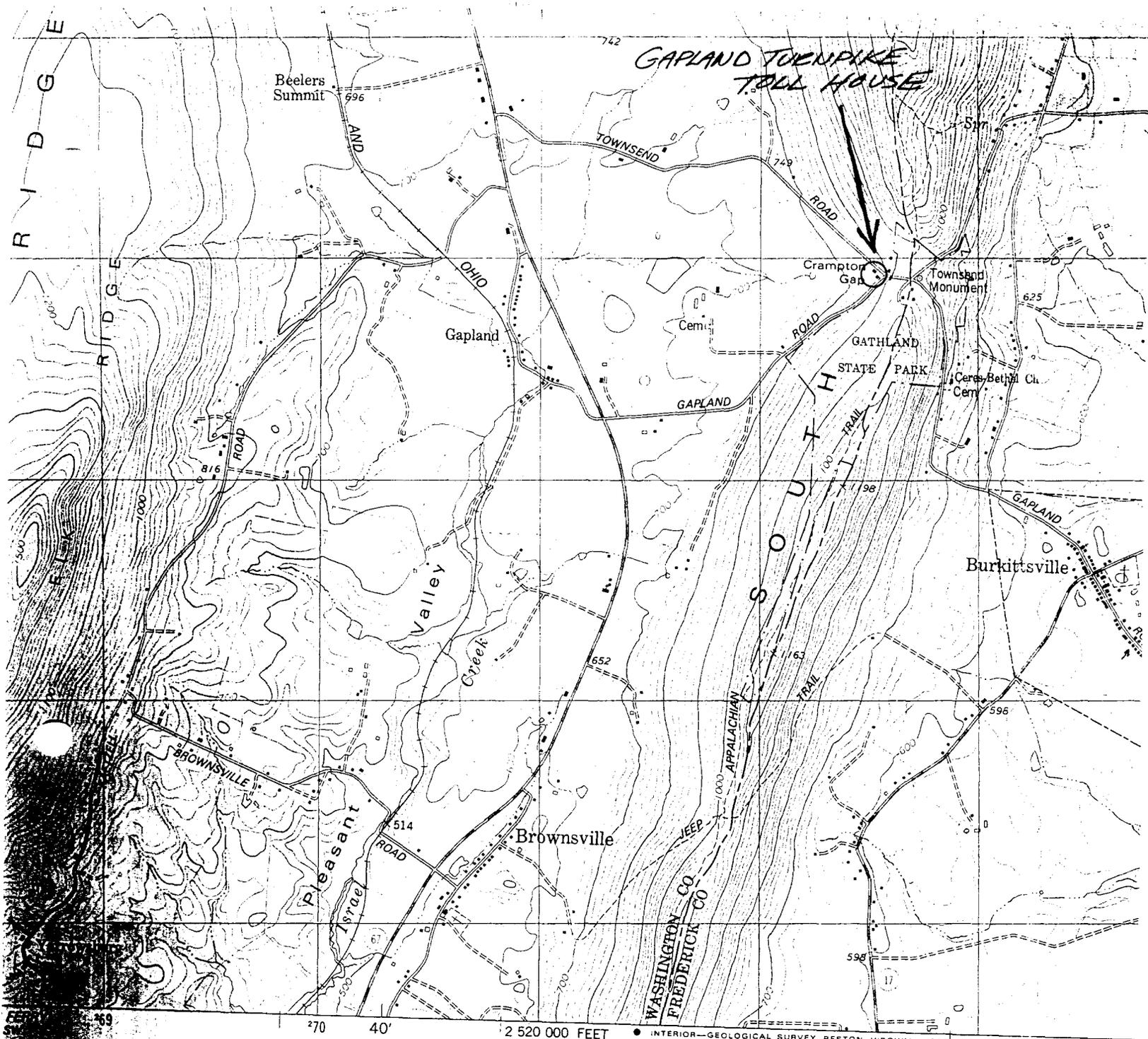
GARLAND ROAD

NORTH →



"MT. GATH"  
 HOUSE  
 BUILT BY  
 TOWNSEND  
 C. 1892

WASHINGTON CNTY.  
 FREDERICK CNTY.



GAPLAND TURNPIKE  
TOLL HOUSE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route

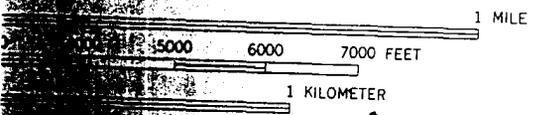


QUADRANGLE LOCATION  
**WA-III-123**  
 Gapland Turnpike Toll House  
 USGS 7.5 minute map  
 Keedysville Quadrangle  
 1: 24,000  
 1978

**KEEDYSVILLE, MD.—W. 1**  
 NW/4 ANTIETAM 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N3922.5—W7737.5/7.5

1978

AMS 5462 I NW—SERIES V833



EDITION OF 1929

2 520 000 FEET (W. VA.) • INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1979 273000mE BRUNSWICK 5 MI

ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 RESTON VIRGINIA 22092  
 DATA IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Maryland Historical Trust

Nomination for National Register of Historical Places

The Gathland Turnpike Toll House, Washington County, Maryland  
William and Mary Van Gilder, owners

Key to color slides:

1. view from intersection of Gapland and Townsend Roads (east)
2. close-up from same vantage point as #1
3. northeast facade showing later porch addition
4. southwest elevation from Gapland Road, crawlspace entry
5. southwest elevation (straight on)
6. southwest elevation (detail of stonework)
7. southeast elevation from Gapland Road
8. rear view from the north showing modern addition

Note: photographs taken in May, 1987

Maryland Historical Trust

Nomination for National Register of Historical Places

The Gathland Turnpike Toll House, Washington County, Maryland  
William and Mary Van Gilder, owners

Key to black & white photographs:

1. view from intersection of Gapland and Townsend Roads
2. close-up from same vantage point, Elk Ridge in background
3. northeast face, Gapland Road at left
4. southwest face showing crawlspace entry
5. close-up of southwest face showing stonework
6. southeast face, Gapland Road in foreground
7. rear view looking toward south showing modern addition
8. rear addition as seen from modern barn to the north
9. view from east corner of lot showing proximity to the  
the "War Correspondents' Arch," Gathland State Park; arch  
appears at end of road, Crampton's Gap

Note: photographs taken in May, 1987



WA-III-123

GARLAND TRPK. TOLL HOUSE

SET 1, 1 OF 9

TIMOTHY J. REESE  
118 E. MA'N ST.-BOX 458  
BURKITTSVILLE, MD 21718.



WA-III-123

GARLAND TRPK. TOLL HOUSE

SET 1, 2 OF 9

TIMOTHY J. REESE  
118 E. MA'N ST.-BOX 458  
BURKITTSVILLE, MD 21718



WA-III-123

GAPLAND TPK. TOLL HOUSE

SET 1, 3 OF 9

TIMOTHY J. REESE  
118 E. MAIN ST.-BOX 458  
BURKITTSVILLE, MD 21718



WA-III-123

GAPLAND TRPK. TOLL HOUSE

SET 1, 4 OF 9

TIMOTHY J. REESE  
118 E. MA'N ST.-BOX 458  
BURKITTSVILLE, MD 21718



WA-III-123

GAPLAND TPK. TOLL HOUSE

SET 1, 5 OF 9

TIMOTHY J. REESE  
118 E. MAIN ST.-BOX 458  
BURKITTSVILLE, MD 21718.



WA-III-123

GAPLAND TRPK. TOLL HOUSE

SET 1, 6 OF 9

TIMOTHY J. REESE  
118 E. MAIN ST.-BOX 458  
BURKITTSVILLE, MD 21718

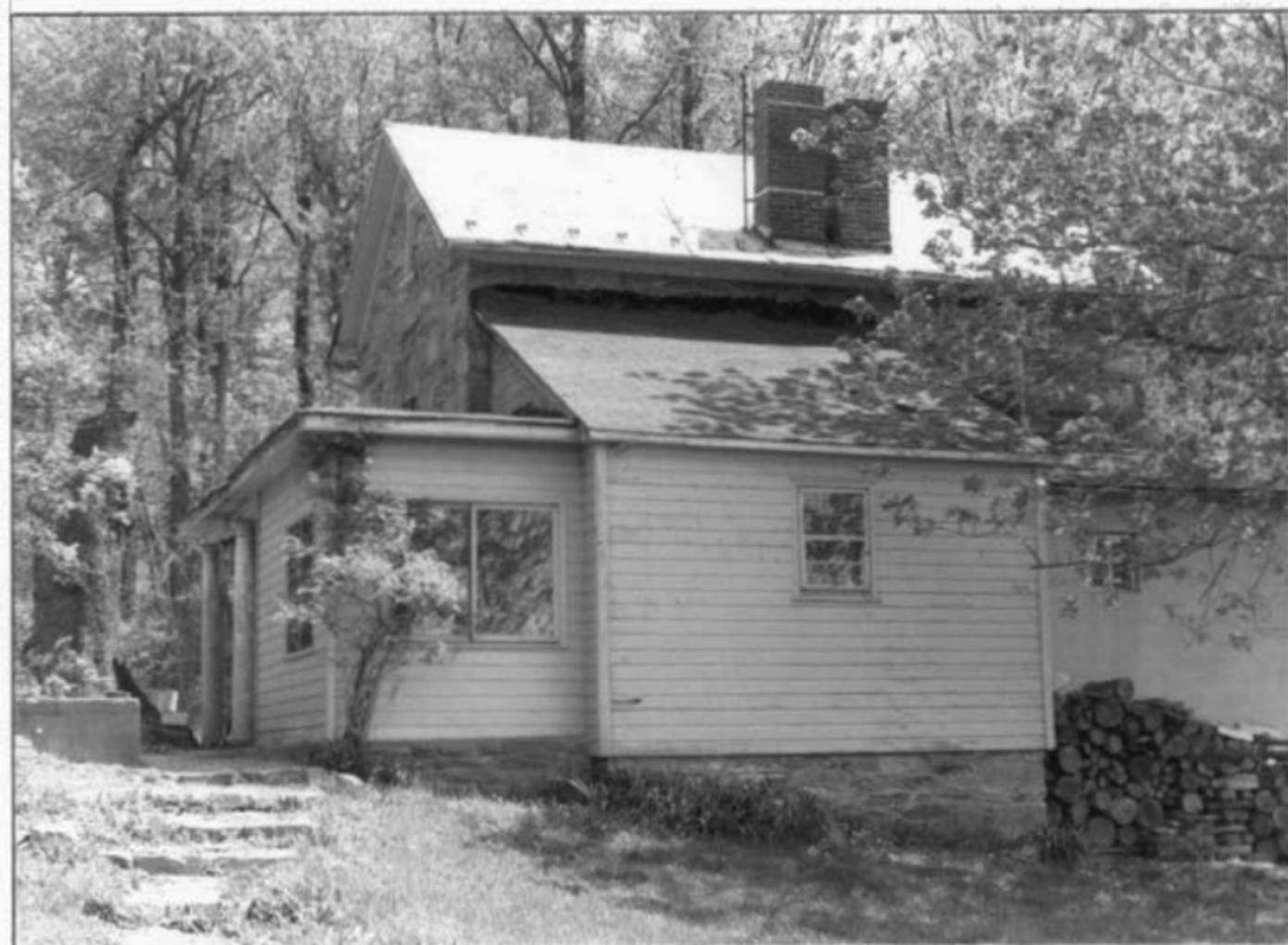


WA-III-123

GAPLAND TRPK. TOLL HOUSE

SET 1, 7 OF 9

TIMOTHY J. REESE  
118 E. MAIN ST.-BOX 458  
BURKITTSVILLE, MD - 21718



WA-III-123

GAPLAND TRPK. TOLL HOUSE

SET 1, 8 OF 9

TIMOTHY J. REESE  
118 E. MAIN ST.-BOX 458  
BURKITTSVILLE, MD 21718



WA-III-123

GAPLAND TPK. TOLL HOUSE

SET 1, 9 OF 9

TIMOTHY J. REESE  
118 E. MAIN ST.-BOX 458  
BURKITTSVILLE, MD 21718