

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

George Ries House # 1

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

4 Cedar Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ninth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Charles C. Hassett

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

4 Cedar Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: 4017

Folio #: 34

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 <u>July, 1979</u>

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

George Ries acquired property along present day Cedar Avenue in 1853 and is most probably the original owner of this frame house. Plain clapboards cover the two story structure which rests on a fieldstone foundation and is topped with a gable-end roof. The longitudinal plan gives the building a North to South orientation. The main block is two bays wide by three bays long and is extended two bays to the North by a two story frame addition. The fenestration is regular with 6/6 sash windows.

The main or south gable end contains the main entrance. The first story is covered by a porch with a hipped roof supported by three square columns. A smaller 6/6 sash window vents the gable end. The deeply corniced eaves of the roof give the appearance of a broken pediment.

The west side has a centrally located modern exterior flue chimney but otherwise has regular fenestration. The east side, however, is somewhat irregular with only the two outer bays being vented by windows and an entrance door in the north bay of the first level. The fenestration of this side of the addition is irregular in placement with a 3/3 sash with very wavy glass breaking the regularity of type.

The first story of the north end is covered with a modern garage addition. The main block seen is windowless.

Interior access to the partial basement was cut through by the present owner and is located in the northwest corner of the north room of the main block.

The 7 foot walls are of coursed stones which vary in size, and the floors are dirt. There is a full basement under the north room of the main block with only a crawl space beneath the south room and the north addition. The full portion reveals bracing fixed with cut nails and circular sawn joists measuring 3 inches by 7 inches by 8 inches. The collar for the hearth support is butt joined and nailed. The north addition also has circular sawn joists, one measuring 3 inches by 8 inches.

The levels above show that the main block is of a two-room-down/two-up plan. The north parlor of the first level contains a fireplace which has an opening  $39\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, 40 inches high and 17 inches deep. There is a plain frieze with a double inner bead. The shelf is  $85\frac{1}{4}$  inches above the floor and projects  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the wall. The entire chimney breast is 57 inches wide.

Other features seen here include random width flooring, 2 inch wide moulding with an inner bead, plain  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inch baseboards, porcelain door knobs with box locks, and bubbled and wavy glass in the windows. There was a door on the east wall of the north

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

BA-210

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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Third quarter 19th century BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This dwelling house was one of several owned by blacksmith George Ries who bought the property in 1853. This house, just as its neighbor the William Jackson House (BA-209) has an orientation to the South and not to the East facing the main road.

The present owner of 17 years remembers when there were large farms both West across York Road and on the east side of Cedar Avenue. Although these areas have now been residentially developed, they do not interfere with the houses along Cedar Avenue (this house being one) which contribute to maintain a Victorian streetscape.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Baltimore County Land Records  
Baltimore County Will Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attachment

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

D. Owings Schultz

WAYNE L. NIELD, II  
HISTORIC IOWSON, INC.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

CHAIN OF TITLE FOR # 4 CEDAR AVENUE  
Parcel 297, Map 70

<u>LIBER</u>	<u>FOLIO</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>
4017	34	July 3, 1962	Greater Towson Development, Corporation	Charles C. Hassett & wife

Beginning at the center of York Trunpike Road at the end of the second line of a parcel of land conveyed by William Jackson to George Ries by deed dated May 17, 1853, Land Record 5/202... Northeast 293 feet to intersect a line drawn Northwest from the northwest side of Old York Road...Southeast 151 feet, Southwest 261 feet, Being known as # 4 Cedar Avenue.

3085	11	January 3, 1957	G. Mark Strohecker & wife	Greater Towson Development, Corporation
------	----	-----------------	---------------------------	---

2128	255	June 16, 1952	Alice Neilson Murdoch	G. Mark Strohecker & wife
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327	100	April 13, 1908	Home Permanent Mutual Land & Building Association	Turnbull Murdoch
-----	-----	----------------	---	------------------

Turnbull Murdoch devised his property to his wife Alice Neilson Murdoch by way of Last Will and Testament 24/434, September 17, 1909.

270	27	July 16, 1903	J. Howard Isaac, Attorney	Home Permanent Mutual Land & Building Association
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Being lot # 1 recorded on a plat filed with the Last Will and Testament of George Ries, Will Book 12/130.

J. Howard Isaac, Attorney  
Mortgage Case, Book 229/371 July 22, 1903  
Theodore S. Ries & wife et al to Home Permanent Mutual Land & Building, Association.

LAST WILL & TESTAMENT:

12	130	March 13, 1901	George Ries	Theodore Ries
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(See attachment)

5            202        May 17, 1853            William Jackson & wife            George Ries

On the east side of the Baltimore and York Turnpike Road about  
6½ miles from Baltimore City, being part of tracts "James Meadows"  
and "Hails Fellowship".

Beginning at the center of York Turnpike, Easterly past the cedar tree  
to a stone in the west side of Old York Road, Southerly to intersect  
York Turnpike to the beginning containing 1¼ acre.

WG 563        209                            Abraham H. Price                    William Jackson

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LAST WILL & TESTAMENT  
GEORGE RIES

George Ries, Last Will & Testament in Will Book 12/130  
March 13, 1901

To son Theodore H. Ries: "all these two lots...being part of the land...  
conveyed to me by William Jackson and wife  
by deed dated May 17, 1853"...HMF 5/202...being  
lot # 1 and lot # 3 on the plat recorded with  
the will.  
(see plat of the division of the real estate of  
George Ries, Surveyed April 18, 1890 by Charles  
B. McClean recorded on page 232 of this will)

Lot # 1:

"Together with the Dwelling House, Blacksmith Shop, Wheelwright  
Shop and other improvements erected thereon."

Lot # 3:

Paint Shop and other improvements.

To son Charles A. Ries:

Lot # 2:

"with the two dwelling houses and other improvements thereon."

Executors of the Will - Theodore H. Ries  
Charles A. Ries  
William S. Keech, Attorney

1. STATE Maryland  
 COUNTY Baltimore Co.  
 TOWN Towson VICINITY Dist. IX  
 STREET NO. 4 Cedar Avenue  
 York Road  
 ORIGINAL OWNER  
 ORIGINAL USE  
 PRESENT OWNER  
 PRESENT USE  
 WALL CONSTRUCTION clapboard  
 NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
 INVENTORY *B.A. - 24 210*

2. NAME 4 Cedar Ave.  
 DATE OR PERIOD 1850's  
 STYLE  
 ARCHITECT  
 BUILDER Jacob Reese

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

A clapboard house built by Jacob Reese for his son.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered                      Interior                      Exterior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 

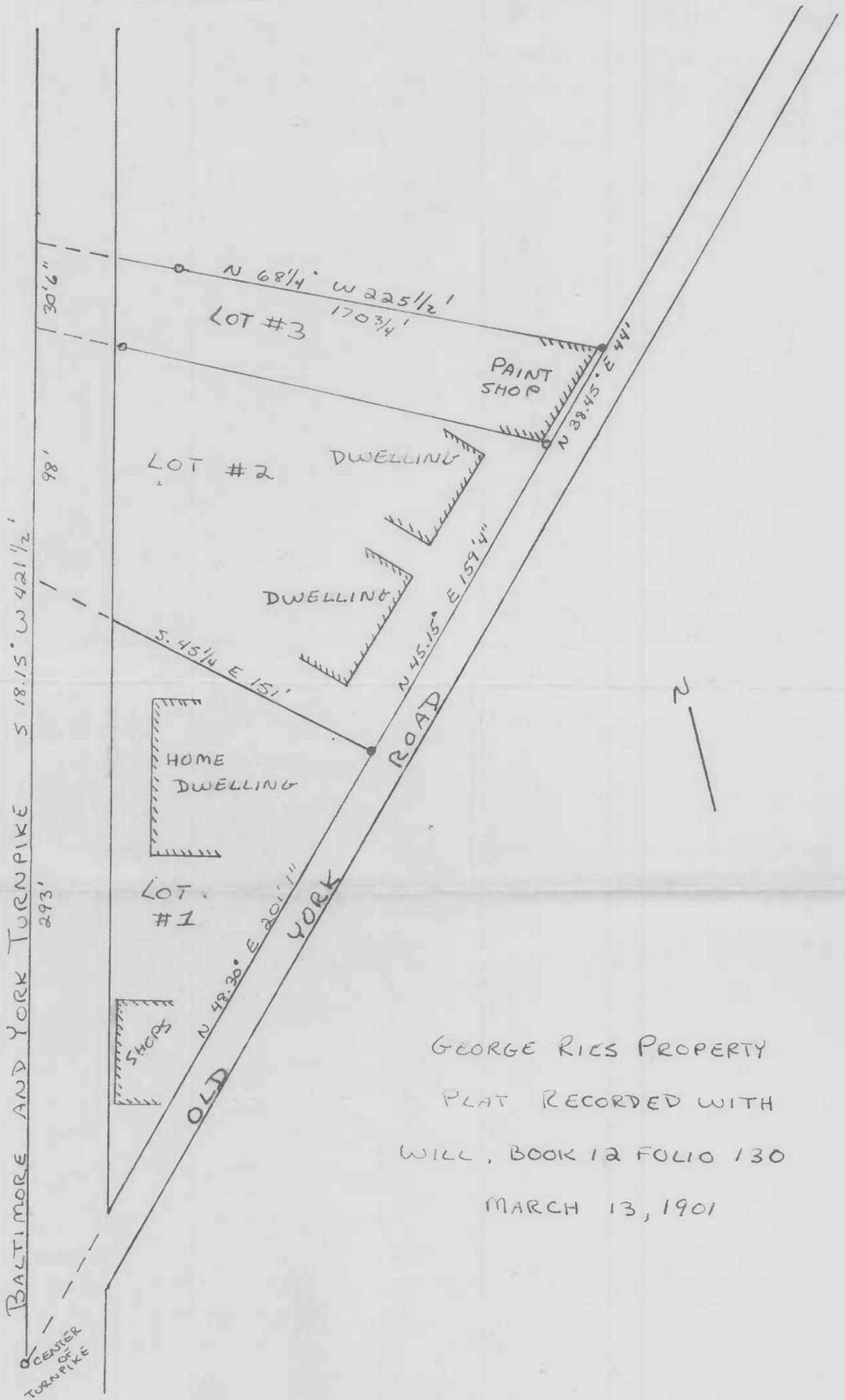
7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)  
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  
 Baltimore Co. Hist. Soc.  
 Agriculture Bldg.  
 Texas, Md.  
*(Alison Harris sign)*  
 DATE OF RECORD March 20, 1968

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTO APHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

BA-210



GEORGE RIES PROPERTY  
 PLAT RECORDED WITH  
 WILL, BOOK 12 FOLIO 130  
 MARCH 13, 1901

- Boundaries
- 1. S. 1/2 Sec 44 East 1/2 Sec 6
  - 2. S. 4 W. 36
  - 3. S. 36 W. 27
  - 4. S. 9 1/2 W. 40
  - 5. S. 17 1/2 W. 75
  - 6. S. 40 W. 107
  - 7. N. 12 1/2 E. 318.4

Plat laid down on a  
Scale of 26 ft. to an inch.  
S. B. R.

This Road if opened will destroy 33 fine  
Apple trees for Mr. Bowen - besides run-  
ning altogether on Mr. Bowen and Jackson,  
as far as their lands extend -  
S. B. R.



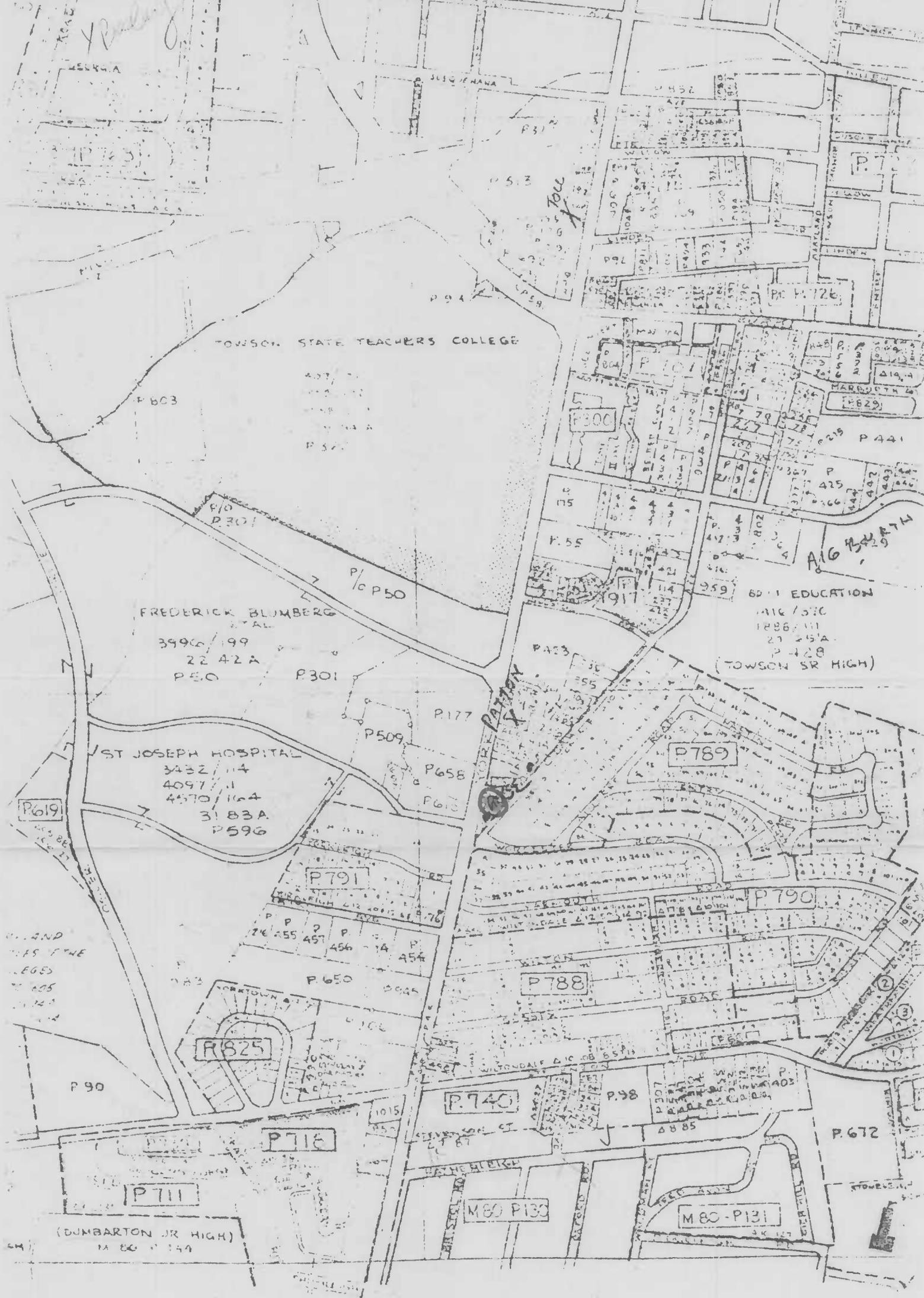
April 7<sup>th</sup> 1820 -  
The Above is a Branch of the Old York Road  
commencing where said Road intersects the York  
Township at Phealys and following the old  
original bed of said Road to where it cuts the  
York Township again at or near Jacksons; thence  
along said Road to the place of Beginning in  
S. B. Ritts house.

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TOWSON

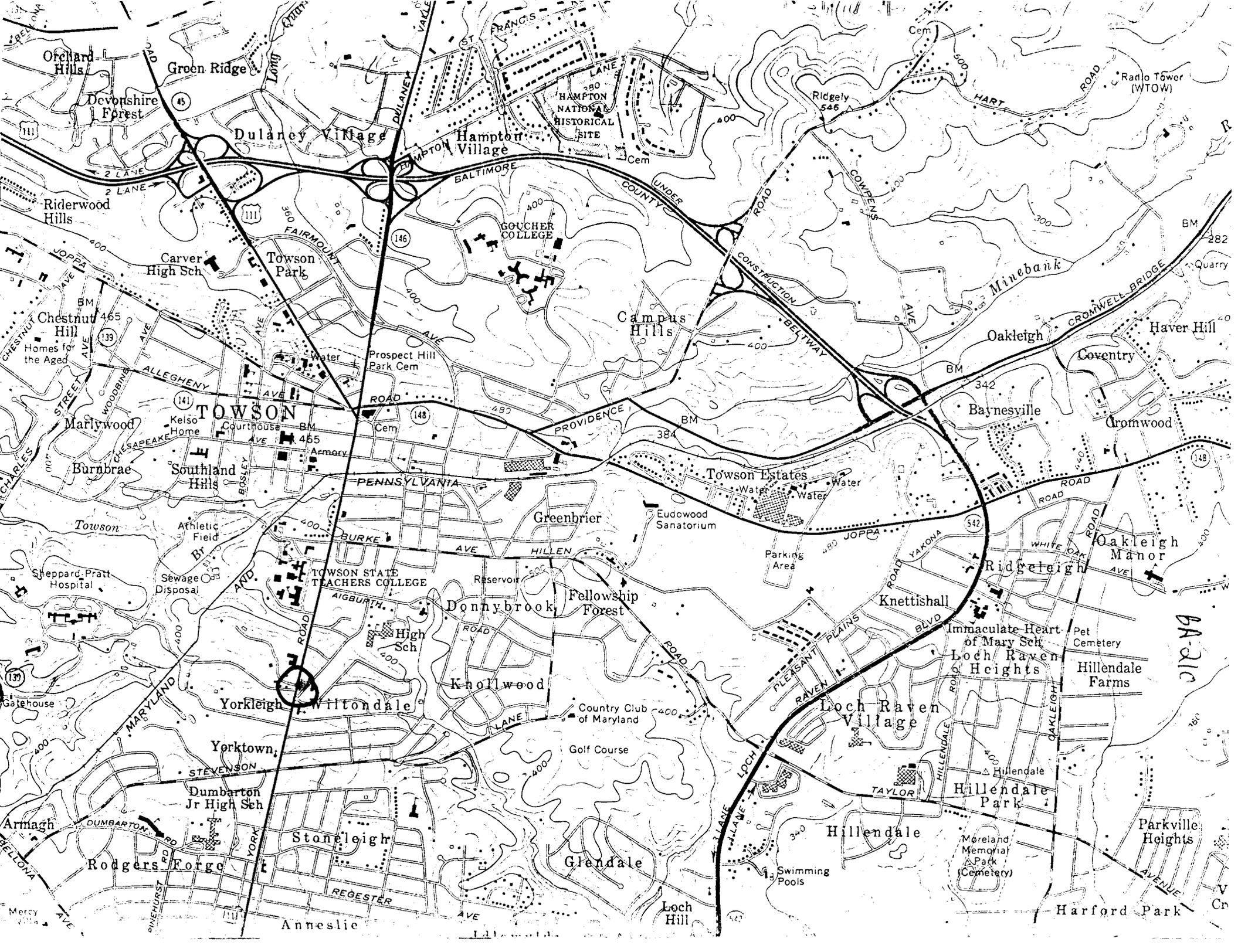
SEE SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET NO. 70



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DEPT. OF ASSESS. & TAX.

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GEORGE RIES HOUSE #1  
S.W. CORNER

J. CORCORAN  
7/79



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GEORGE RIES HOUSE #1

S. FACADE

J. CORCORAN

7/79



BA-210

GEORGE RIES HOUSE #1  
E. FACADE

J. CORCORAN

7/79



BA-210

GEORGE RIES HOUSE #1  
E. FACADE

J. CORCORAN  
7/79



BA- 210

GEORGE RIES HOUSE #1  
GARAGE - E. FACADE

J. CORCORAN  
7/79



BA-210

GEORGE RIES HOUSE #1  
E. FACADE

J. CORCORAN  
7/79