

HENRY GWYNN RESIDENCE
CAPSULE
6909 BELLONA AVENUE

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The vertical thrust of this building, its hipped roof and perhaps most of all its lantern with bracketed eaves gives it an Italianate if not a "castelated" appearance. The cross-gable is a touch of the Gothic. Still standing on a fairly large parcel of land this house, its outbuildings and landscaped grounds are quite illustrative of many of the ideas behind the Picturesque Movement. The fairly dense development that surrounds it emphasizes its value as a lesson in 19th century residential design.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Henry Gwynn Residence

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

6909 Bellona Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ninth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Francis Weiskittel

Telephone #: 377-9064

STREET & NUMBER

6906 Bellona Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: 1591

Folio #: 581

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

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	DATE	April, 1979
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Dominating the southeast corner of Bellona and Stevenson Lane is a 2½ story Victorian frame house resting on a high stone foundation. The walls of this cross gabled structure are covered with large wooden shingles, but it has been reported by the owner of 32 years that these shingles cover smaller wooden shingles, and weather board.

The main block is three bays wide, two bays deep and has a wing projecting to the east which gives the overall plan an L-shape. The fenestration is regular with some variation in size.

The west facade of the main block is the main facade and faces Bellona Avenue. The first story of this symmetrical facade has a central entrance flanked by tall 2/3 sash windows in each of the outer bays. These windows, as most of the first story windows, have shutters which are louvered on the upper portion and paneled below. All windows have wooden sills.

The entrance itself has flanking side lights and a five light transom. A door with raised cornered panels now being stored in the garage is reported to be the original door.

The single story porch has a flat roof, the entablature of which is supported by four chamfered square posts and two pilasters. The roof, like the main roof, is presently covered with tin but was at one time covered with wooden shingles. There is lattice between the porch and the ground.

The second story has a large centrally located 2/2 sash window flanked by narrow 2/2 sash side lights.

The 2/2 sash windows in the outer bays have bracketed hood molds.

The gable is lighted by a semi-circular window, however, the interior space of this gable is not functional.

The roof has very deep eaves with a semi-pedimented gable. Interior end brick chimneys which are corbeled and capped are located on each of the four corners of the main block.

Atop the cross-gable sits a practically square cupola, with a flat roof and a cornice supported by brackets. Each side contains small 4/4 sash windows.

The gable end of the north facade is two bays wide with a regular 2/3 sash fenestration on the first level and 2/2 sash on the second.

The first level windows are covered by a porch similar to the one on the west facade. One casement cellar window is on the west bay.

The gable itself is vented by a pair of smaller 2/2 sash windows.

A two story wing projects to the east and rests on a stone foundation.

This gabled portion is a long two bays wide on the north facade with a 6/6 sash window in each bay.

A brick capped chimney breaks the ridge at the east end of the building, the porch on the east end has been enclosed.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The east facade of the main block reveals an awkward relationship between the windows in the northernmost bay and the projecting wing. These windows, which have bracketed hood molds on all level windows, break the symmetry of the three bays by being closer to center right against the wall of the wing.

As on the front facade, a semi-circular window lights the gable, however, this interior space is used as storage.

The south facade is identical to the north with the exception of having no porch.

Interior:

The basement reflects the L-plan of the building. The stone walls are uncoursed. An interesting feature is an inset opening on the north wall which measures 1 foot deep, 53 inches wide, 2 feet high and 32 inches from the floor.

There are two chimney supports on both the east and west walls with stone buttresses measuring 14 inches deep.

Joists measure 3 inches by 10 inches and have been vertically sawn, however, there are some circular sawn materials. There are occasional rough log joists.

The first floor is that of a central hall plan with flanking parlors. The hall itself is very wide and long and contains a switchback stair. The turned newel post and balusters are very similar to those seen in the Bosley Mansion.* There are open scrolled step ends.

The flanking parlors appear to have once been divided in half but are now one long parlor extending the length of the hall. Evidence of this is that both parlors contain projecting chimneys serving fireplaces on the east and west ends. These chimneys project 25 inches into the room, and have built in cupboards on the outer sides.

The ceilings measure 10 feet 9 inches from the floor. Large tall windows located between the fireplaces in the north parlor are triple hung sash measuring within 22 inches from the ceiling. The glass is wavy. The opening measures 7 feet 1 inch tall, 36 inches wide, and have been recessed effecting a doorway leading to the porch.

Decorative features seen here, and throughout the first floor are formal wide pedimented mouldings above doors and windows.

The wing contains the kitchen area.

The second level reflects the plan of the first, with the south extension being at a lower level than the main block, being a 25 inch drop.

The ceilings on this level measure 9½ feet high.

The doors have three light transoms and also have the pedimented mouldings although they are not as formal as those on the first level.

The bathroom contains early fixtures made of porcelain.

The landing between the second and third level divides a window.

The third level has four rooms, although one of these is only a small storage space in the east gable.

Original flooring can be seen in two of the rooms. There are trapezoidal ceilings and plain mouldings 2 and 3/4 inches wide with an inner bead. One of the rooms has built in cupboards extending along one wall.

* See BA # 97

The cupula is approximately 7 feet 5 inches square and 9 feet 5 inches high. There is a pair of 2/2 sash windows on each wall which have wavy glass. Decoration includes cornice wall paper.

Outbuildings:

There are several outbuildings sporadically located on the property.

Building A was originally built as a stable for cows in the early 20th century. It measures $32\frac{1}{2}$ feet long by 13 feet wide, however, 14 feet of the length had been added later. This building was moved approximately 50 feet to the south at the time of road construction of Stevenson Lane.

Building B was built by the present owner as a shelter for sheep. Much of the material came from a barn in Mt. Washington built in 1895. The georgia pine german clapboards are fastened with cut nails. There is a shed roof. Mr. Weiskittel built the many interesting features including creep feeders.

This building measures $20\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide by 41 feet long. The north end of the east and west facade is 9 feet while the south end is 10 feet 8 inches.

The north and east ends are windowless while most of the south end is open with a small enclosure in the southwest corner.

Building C is a corn crib raised from the ground 45 inches by concrete blocks.

The building itself measures 14 feet 4 inches by 7 feet 3 inches. From the eaves to the sill is $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The building is of frame construction with feather edge siding set with a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch spacing to allow for circulation.

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 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 1850's-1877 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This large Italianate house is among the Victorian "seats" with which the Towson area was rich. From mid-century on it became popular to build large suburban residences and that they be of the latest style. This area witnessed the Gothic, the Mansard or Second Empire, the Italianate and others.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6 acres

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	WAYNE L. NIELD, II	
ORGANIZATION	HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.	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 HENRY GWYNN RESIDENCE
Parcel 91, map 79

<u>LIBER</u>	<u>FOLIO</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>
1591	581	September 10, 1947	Herbert L. Weiskittel	Francis A. Weiskittel et al
Beginning...center line of Bellona Ave. at the end of South 52 $\frac{1}{2}$ ⁰ West 50.3 perches line of whole tract of land which now is being described...deed from Garnett P. Radebaugh and wife to D. Heisler Sheppard dated September 15, 1925 Land Record 619/471...containing 6 acres.				
1082	36	October 4, 1939	G. William Parker	Herbert L. Weiskittel
1082	35	October 4, 1939	Herbert L. Weiskittel	G. William Parker
863	418	November 13, 1930	Amos L. Buchsbaum	Herbert L. Weiskittel
863	417	November 13, 1930	Herbert . Weiskittel	Amos L. Buchsbaum
635	184	July 16, 1926	Daniel H. Sheppard & wf	Herbert L. Weiskittel
619	471	September 15, 1925	Garnett P. Radebaugh	D. Heisler Sheppard
Emily J. Walker, by way of will dated April 14, 1881 (Will Book 9/479) conveyed to her daughter Zoe Radebaugh this property. Zoe Radebaugh's living children were Garnett P. Radebaugh and Grace Radebaugh Sheppard. Grace Sheppard died leaving a son - Daniel Heisler Sheppard. Upon Zoe's death, Garnett P. Radebaugh and Daniel H. Sheppard became heirs at law, entitled to $\frac{1}{2}$ undivided share.				
99	309	February 15, 1877	E. Calvin Williams, Assignee	Emily J. Walker
Beginning...boundary line of land conveyed by James W. Curley & wife to Joseph Reynolds by Deed dated August 20, 1858 Book 24/37 to center of Old Powder Mill Road (now Bellona Ave) leading from Govenstown to Hunts Meeting House being parts of "Friends Discovery" containing 11 acres, 1 square perch.				

61 570 April 1, 1869 Caroline C. Mason Henry Gwynn

Mortgage record 33/13 Henry Gwynn to Caroline Mason
Sold in public auction to Emily J. Walker

Lot was sublet to William A. Mason by James W. Curley August 19, 1864
Land Record JWL 42/148, later surrendered to Caroline C. Mason in
Land Record 49/367.

49 363 June 29, 1866 John Henderson & wife Carrie (Caroline) C. Mason

SUBLEASE:

42 148 August 19, 1864 James W. Curley William A. Mason

= James W. Curley holds lease from Margaret M. Wilson through deed
dated July 2, 1856 in the Land Records 15/577 with a yearly rent
of \$360 redeemable at the end of ten years upon the payment of \$ 6,000.

"...a triangular lot fronting 15.2 perches on the Old Powder Mill
Road up to and along a private Road opened by Curley and Joseph
Reynolds."

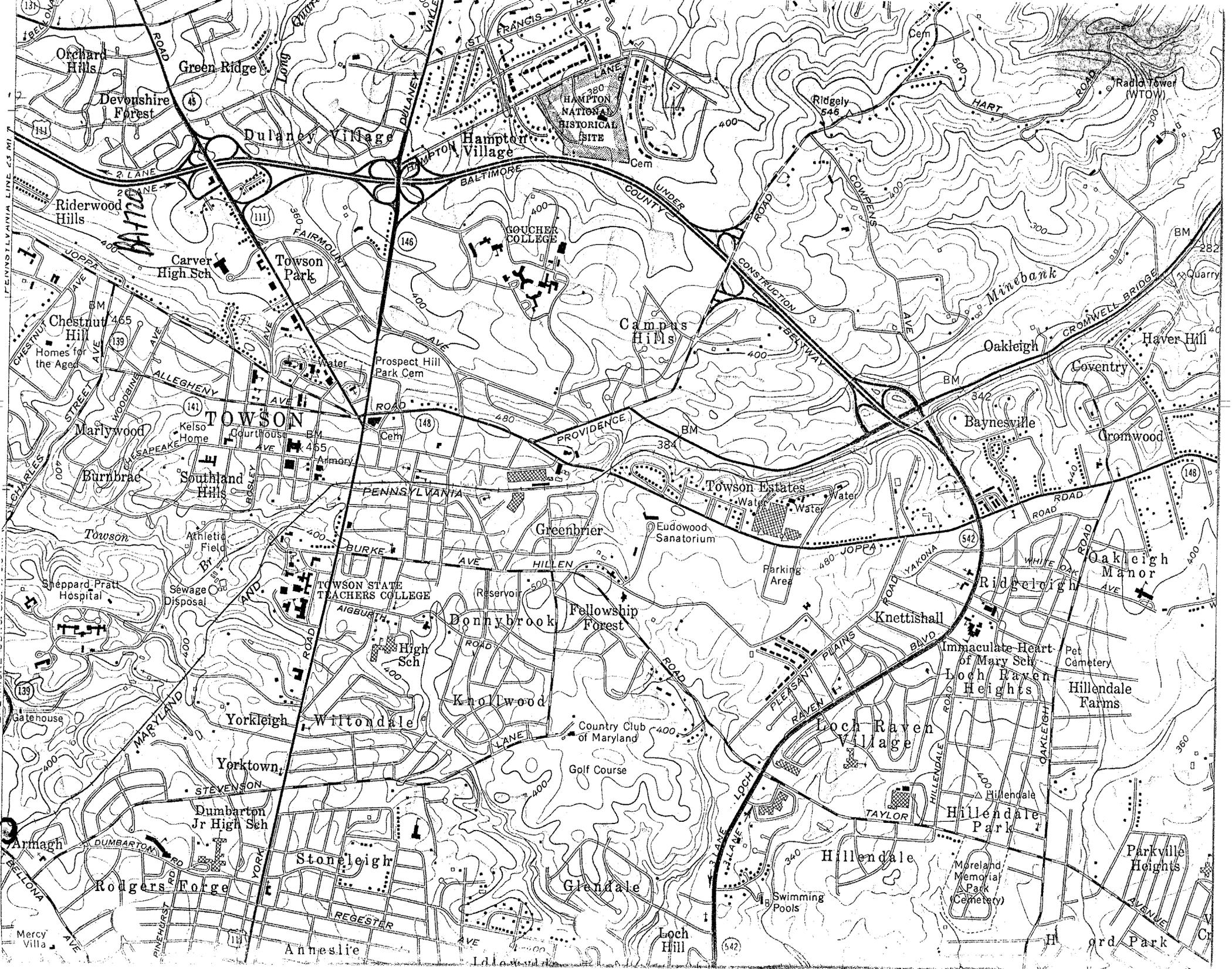
15 336 July 2, 1856 James W. Curley & wife Margaret M. Wilson

Beginning South 87° West 20 perches from the beginning of tract
called Friends Discovery...containg 53 acres.

15 384 July 1, ? Robert A. Taylor & wife James C. Curley

supposed to contain 83 acres.

July 3, 1840 Samuel Hopkins Robert A. Taylor





BA-1720

HENRY GWYNN RES.

S.W. CORNER

J. CORCORAN

7/79



BA-1720

HENRY GWYNN RES
S.E.

J. CORCORAN
7/79