

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes  X  
no

Property Name: Nelson Bowen House Inventory Number: BA-1778

Address: 6131 Falls Road (1310 Hollins Lane) City: Towson Zip Code: 21204

County: Baltimore County USGS Topographic Map: Cockeysville

Owner: Robert F. Adsit Is the property being evaluated a district?  yes

Tax Parcel Number: 68 Tax Map Number: 79 Tax Account ID Number: 0920550040

Project: MD 25: City/County Line to Old Court Road (Streetsc Agency: FHWA/SHA

Site visit by MHT staff:  no  yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the property is located within a historic district?  yes  no

*If the property is within a district* District Inventory Number: BA-2998  
NR-listed district  yes Eligible district  X yes Name of District: Bare Hills Historic District  
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource  X yes  no Non-contributing but eligible in another context  yes

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)* Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible  X yes  no

Criteria:  A  B  X C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Project Review and Compliance

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The Nelson Bowen House was not included as a resource with the Bare Hills Historic District nomination, due to owner objection. However, for purposes of SHA's project, it is a contributing resource to the Bare Hills Historic District, and thus eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C (architecture).

Prepared by: Anne E. Bruder, SHA Architectural Hi Date Prepared: 10/18/2002

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended  X Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  X C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

MHT Comments

C. Andrew Lewis ✓

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

January 08, 2003

Date

Peter Kurtze

Reviewer, NR Program

January 08, 2003

Date

200204172



(MORE WEST) 355  
562 1 SW



*ROSSA BARNEY HOUSE*  
*BA-1778*  
*BOWEN HOUSE*

*TOWSON USGS QUAD 1:24000*

358 INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 1986  
359 000m E  
BALTIMORE (UNION U.S.) 4 5 M

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty		Light-duty	
Medium-duty		Unimproved dirt	



BA-1778 / RA-2998

Nelson Fowen House (6131 Faus Rd  
Baltimore County MD OR 13111 Nowing  
L)

A Fowen

AUG. 2007

MD SAPO

SOUTH & EAST FACADES

1/1

BA 1778

NELSON BOWEN HOUSE  
CAPSULE  
# 6131 FALLS ROAD

The Falls Road is rich with historical sites and contains a collection of buildings which runs the full gamut of American architecture. This house is one example.

The brick portion is the older of the two and is believed to date from early in the 19th century. It is a three bay by two bay construction with a center hall plan. An interior end chimney serves fireplaces with elegant Victorian mantelpieces. It is extended to the North by a log addition which oral history identifies as a shoemakers shop.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Nelson Bowen House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

6131 Falls Road

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

Robert F. Adsit

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

6131 Falls Road

CITY, TOWN

Towson

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: 5594

Folio #: 209

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**

BA-1778

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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 <u>June, 1979</u>

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

In searching an area East of Falls Road for buildings which might pre-date the Civil War era a house that should be considered is the brick structure at # 6131 Falls Road. It is a full two story dwelling resting on a fieldstone foundation that is 18 inches high on the west side. The structure is capped with a gable end roof and extended to the North by a one-and-one-half story log addition.

The main block is three bays wide and two deep. It has a center hall and regular fenestration although the entrance or middle bays are off center to the North. The windows are 6/6 sash and trimmed with louvered shutters that have shutter locks from three different periods. The oldest of these is guessed to be the rat tail locks seen on several windows.

A full porch has been removed on the east side. The north bay of this facade contains a bulkhead entrance to the cellar. Plastering, insulation, etc. conceal much of the construction of the building. Nothing was observed that supports local belief that the house is "over 200 years old." The present owner learned from the Tormey family across the street that that family's presence in this neighborhood and in their house can be documented back to 1857 and they are strong in their belief that the brick house pre-dates their frame dwelling. It probably does but no clearly identifiable 18th century fabric can be seen.

What can be seen, however, is quite interesting. There is no "hall" as such but rather front and back stairs that are enclosed in a central location. The entrance door opens practically right on the first step of the stairs (41 inches wide) and doors on the immediate right and left give access to the parlors. The parlors each have a fireplace served by the interior end chimneys. The fireplaces are of the round arch coal burning type. In both parlors they are faced with elaborate mantels and surrounds carved from slate and are marbleized. They are further decorated with etched spandrels and keys with figurines. The chimney breasts are 56 3/4 inches wide and project into the room 18 1/2 inches. The rooms on the first level have 8 foot ceilings. Relatively plain mouldings with three-quarter round inner edges decorate the doors and windows. In these rooms and elsewhere in the house double cross mortise-and-tenon doors were seen that have early metal box locks.

Like the first level the upper level consist mainly of two room and the narrow hall. The same mouldings are present and door types. The ceilings are 8 feet 4 inches on this level and the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

chimneys are narrower. That of the south room is 32 inches wide and projects from the wall 17 inches.

There is no known access to the roof framing.

Examination of the basement shows a full sized room with walls made of flat fieldstones and an attempt at coursing. 3" x 11½" joists were seen that were vertically sawn on the broad side and hewn on the edge. The sawmarks were not as regular as one would expect for mechanically sawn lumber.

#### North wing:

The absence of a south end wall for this section proves it to be an addition. Although no wall logs were seen, the thickness of the walls and the recollection of the owner of having seen "rubble" infill (chinking) while doing spot repair suggest that this is a log building. It is one-and-one-half stories high, approximately 21 feet long (three bays) and 15 feet (two bays) deep.

The west facade of this wing has evenly placed 6/6 windows in the outer bays, although they are off center to the block. Like the main block there is a centrally located entrance with a northern shift due to centrally placed stairs. The north end is symmetrical with two tall evenly placed casement windows in the upper level and one centrally placed 6/6 below. There is no end chimney, only a modern exterior flue attached to the northeast corner. The east facade is like that of the west (although the openings do not line up between the two) and has only recently been altered for a porch.

The interior of the log wing in some ways is as imitative as the exterior. It consists of two rooms down and two up with a central stairs. Its first floor ceilings are 8 feet 2 inches high while upstairs they are the typical tray ceilings and knee walls of a half story.

The owner has collected the tradition told by the Tormeys that this addition housed a shoemakers' shop.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1778

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 1830 - 1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Falls Road is rich with historical sites and contains a collection of buildings which runs the full gamut of American architecture. This house is one example.

The brick portion is the older of the two and is believed to date from early in the 19th century. It is a three bay by two bay construction with a center hall plan. An interior end chimney serves fireplaces with elegant Victorian mantelpieces. It is extended to the North by a log addition which oral history identifies as a shoemakers shop.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

BA-1778

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Baltimore County Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.72

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

BA-1778

CHAIN OF TITLE FOR # 6131 FALLS ROAD  
Parcel 118, map 79

<u>LIBER</u>	<u>FOLIO</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>
5594	209	December 15, 1975	Eleanor Brooke Cottman	Robert F. Adsit
<p>Beginning at the center of Falls Road at a point intersected by the extension of the centerline of an avenue...Northwest 150.16 feet and Northeast 180.38 feet...Northeast 227.17 feet...Southeast 113.83 feet... Southeast 90.75 feet to an avenue...Southwest 315.1 feet to the beginning. Containing 1.72 acres known as # 6131 Falls Road.</p>				
1077	242	October 10, 1939	F. Carroll Tormey & wf	Eleanor Brooke Cottman
896	33	March 11, 1932	David M. Davis & wife	F. Carroll Tormey & wife
<p>Beginning...Northwest 150 feet 2 inches, Northeast 407 feet 5½ inches, Northwest 189 feet 9 inches, Northeast 115 feet 5 inches, Southeast 19 feet 10 inches, Southeast 82 feet 6 inches, Southeast 61 feet 1 inch, Southeast 77 feet 7 inches, Southeast 38 feet, Southeast 26 feet 5 inches, Southeast 74 feet 3 inches, Southeast 203 feet, Southeast 9 inches, Southwest 315 feet 1 inch to beginning.</p>				
838	458	November 15, 1929	Edwina C. Wharton Smith & hus.	David M. Davis & wf
634	341	July 23, 1926	John T. Starr & wife et al	Edwina C. Wahrton Smith
272	14	November 23, 1903	Henry Otto Buttner	James T. Starr & wife
<p>First: Containing 1 acre, 3 roods, 16 perches Second: Containing 1 acre, 1 rood, 12 square perches</p> <p>Being lot # 4 and #5 on a plat of "Spring Hill" in Land Record 54/412</p>				
117	151	October 5, 1889	Michael R. Buttner & wf	Henry Otto Buttner

BA-1778

From the following two deeds conveyed from Samuel Barnes to Michail R. Buttner:

19 235 July 3, 1857 (Lot #5)

9 562 May 29, 1854 (Lot #4)

AWB 359 17 October 29, 1845 Federal Earickson & wife Samuel Barnes

Beginning at the center of Falls Turnpike road intersected by the Susquehanna Rail Road being the end of a line Southwest from the 6 mile stone on the Falls Turnpike road running up the center of Susquehanna Roak Road...Northwest to the east 150 perches outline of the land conveyed by Charles Ridgely of Hampton to Jesse Tyson ...March 13, 1813. Containing 108 acres, 33 square perches.

Subject to "reservation expressed in Indenture relative to right of Charles A. Buchanan to conduct the water in pipes from the Spring on the land herein described situated a short distance North of the dwelling house on said land, to the Tavern house of the said Charles A. Buchanan, in the fork formed by the two branches of the Rail Road..." (First noted in TK 289/380)

TK 315 96 December 16, 1841 John Young Federal Earickson & wife

Being parts of the following four tracts:

Edward and Wills Valleys and Hills  
The Labyrinth  
Youngs Delight  
Hectors Hop Yard

TK 289 380 June 6, 1839 Nelson Bowen & wife John Young

Subject to mortgage from Nelson Bowen and wife to Mary Cockey by deed dated May 26, 1836, TK 259/496, for securing payment of \$ 1,550 at the expiration of five years from 1936.

TK 259 493 May 26, 1836 Charles A. Buchanan & wife Nelson Bowen & wife

TK 246 453 March 28, 1835 Josias Pennington & George Charles A. Buchanan  
C. Morton Trustees et al

Trustees for the benefit of the creditors of Robert S. Hollins,  
an insolvent debtor.

Mortgage WG 202/62 November 13, 1829  
Robert S. Hollins to The President and Directors  
of the Farmers and Merchants  
Bank of Baltimore

Only a small portion of the debt needed to be secured

Josias Pennington was appointed Provisional Trustee for the benefit  
of the creditors.

Sold by public auction to Charles A. Buchanan for \$12,000

Part of the following 8 tracts:

Samuels Hope  
Hopyard  
Youngs Delight  
Hectors Hopyard  
Edwards and Mills Valleys and Hills  
Morgans Delight  
The Labyrinth  
Benjamins Mill Lot Reserved

Containing 462½ acres

From the following two mortgages to the parties of the second part (The President  
and Directors of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Baltimore) from Jesse Tyson

WG 154 660 October 27, 1819

WG 153 667 October 12, 1819

Jesse Tyson acquired the land from the following deeds:

WG 123 35 January 21, 1813 Ruth & Mary W. Bowen (Ruth Bowen is the widow  
of Nathan Bowen)

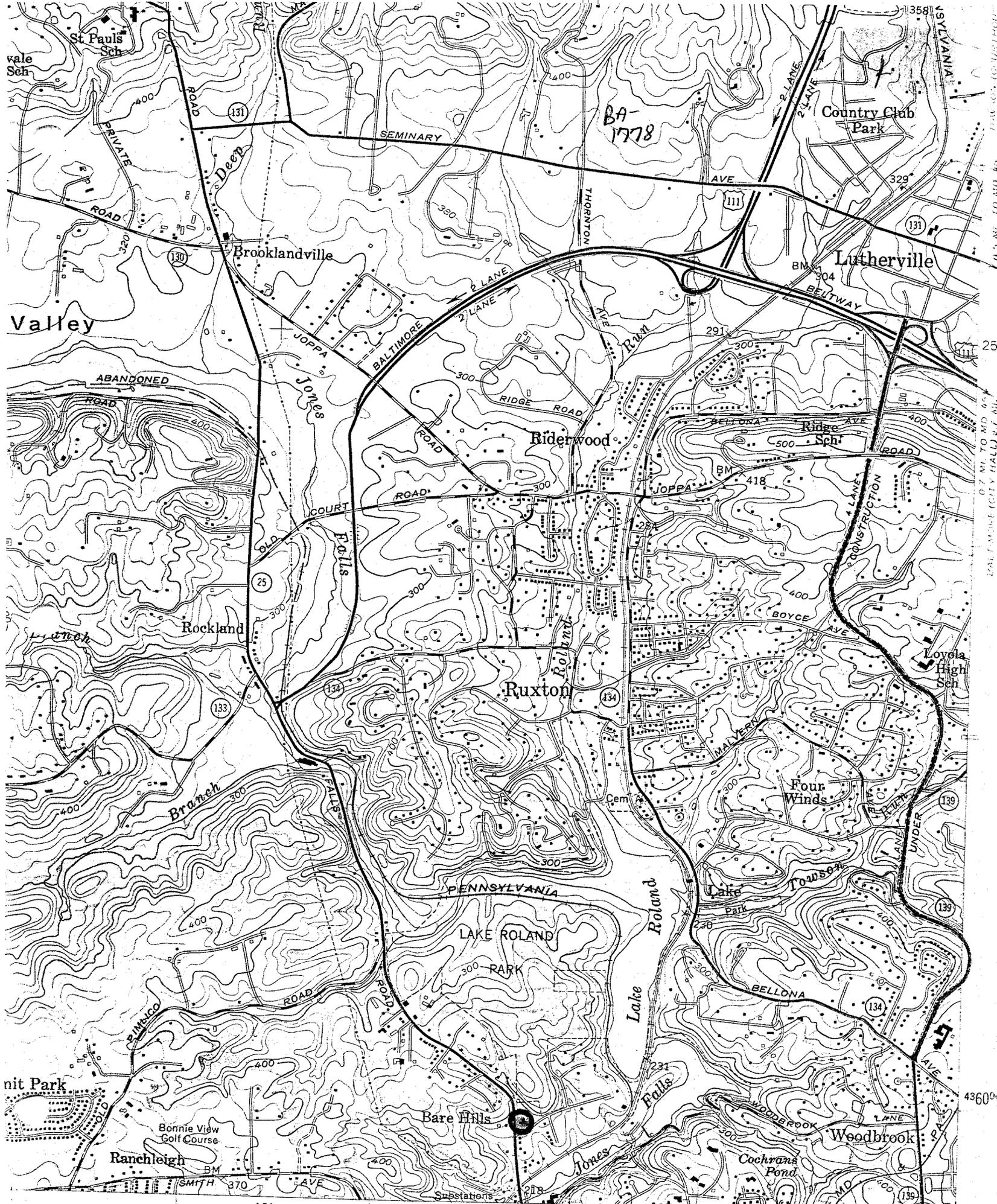
WG 122 460 March 17, 1813 Charles Ridgely of Hampton

WG 122 383 March 11, 1813 William Bowen

WG 120 711 November 19, 1812 Ruth & Charles Bowen

WG 145 657 May 16, 1818 Mahlon Milnor





40' BALTIMORE (JUNC. U.S. 1) 5 MI.

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. - 1958-NS  
359000m.E M R 4867  
BALTIMORE (JUNC. U.S. 1) 4.5 MI.

3581  
329  
358  
25  
25  
4360'  
39 2  
76°37'30"



BA- 1778

NELSON BOWEN Hse.

S.W. CORNER

J. CORCORAN  
7/79



BA-1778

NELSON BOWEN HSE.  
E. FACADE

J. CORCORAN  
7/79



BA-1778

NELSON BOWEN HSE.

N.W. CORNER

J. CORCORAN

7/79