2167 **DAVIS-DEY-LAKE HOUSE** - 1903-1911 - 28 Willow Avenue, Towson. In 1903, the Rev. Matthew O'Keefe sold what he called a quarry lot to Ella M. Davis who two years later leased the ground to her relative William M. Dey. The quarry had been to furnish stone for the Immaculate Conception church project, but was apparently never exploited. The Dey house was in place by the time of the 1911 tax ledger, charged to Mrs. William Dey. The house appears as a rectangle in the 1915 atlas. The second generation of Deys sold in 1953 to Robert and Betty Lake who have made elaborate improvements, including a library and gourmet kitchen. This is a 2-½ story cross-gabled house, with composition siding, full width front porch. Second story sun room on west. Also garage, play house.

2168 **ARCHIBALD DAVIS HOUSE** - 1882 - 32 Willow Avenue, Towson. The county transfer book shows that this was the first house constructed on the street, built for Archibald Davis, A Union veteran of the Civil War. Vernacular style house, L-shaped plan; small main block facing the street; long gabled rear extension. Full-width front porch. One bay window on west. Sun room windows on second story west. Totally restored in late 1970s by Raymond Cronin. Sold in 1984 to Jason Frank and Sally Cromwell.

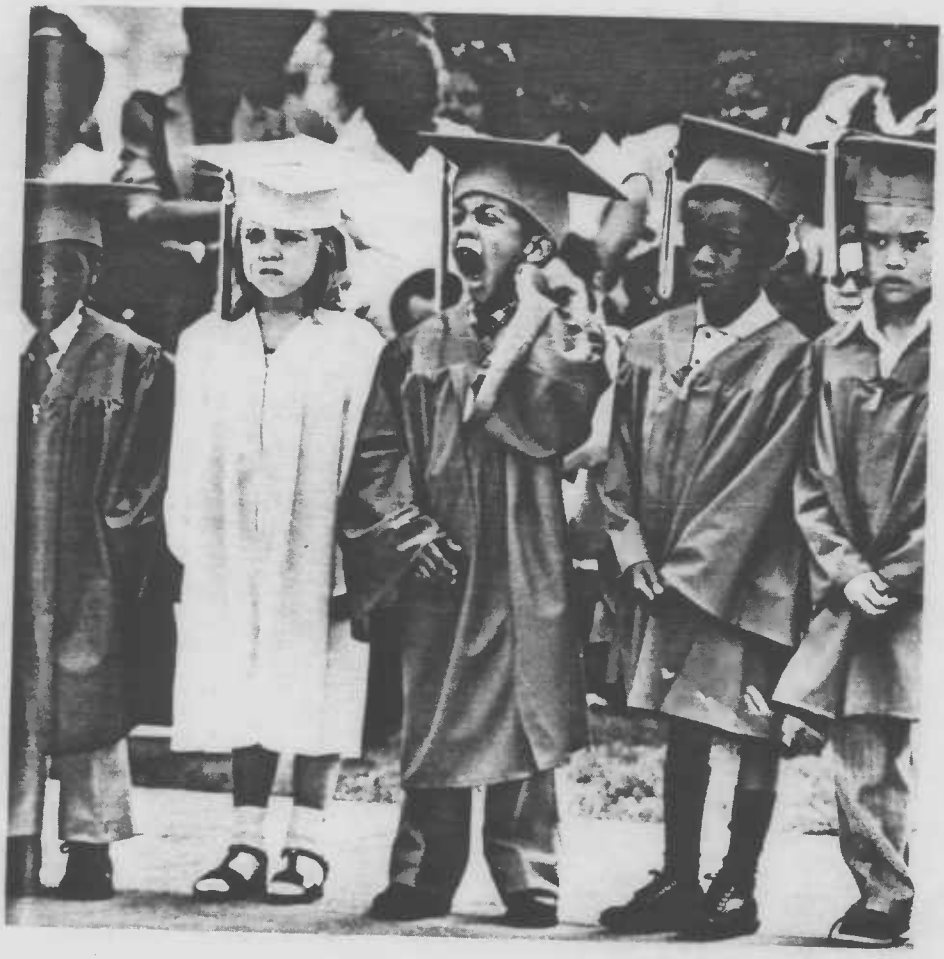
2169 **MCGRAIN HOUSE** - 1883 - 34 Willow Avenue, Towson. Surviving specifications and receipt show that William A. Cranston completed this house for John McGrain on August 23, 1883. Large L-shaped cross-gabled house perched on high basement. The second-oldest house on the street. The structure is decorated with scroll-sawn porch brackets and elliptically carved porch ballusters. The gable peak contains a small crude lancet window, but the only such Gothic window on the street. Full-width front porch. A shed-roofed passageway to the cellar was added in 1943. The present brown wood shingles cover the original clapboarding. Still in original family.

2176 **STEPHENS HALL** - 1915 - 7900 York Road, Towson. Originally the administration building and only classroom structure of the State Normal School, now Towson State University. Long brick structure of three stories, in Jacobean Revival; dominated by open, bronze clock tower. Theatre wing at rear. Designed by Parker, Thomas and Rice. Consultant engineer was Charles L. Reeder. It was renamed Stephens Hall in 1971 in honor of State Superintendent of Education, Morse Bates Stephens.

Brooks, Neal A., and Richard Parsons
1988 Baltimore County Panorama. Towson, Maryland: Baltimore County Public Library.

BA-2176

277



These Catonsville-area nursery school children register a variety of comments on the proceedings at their graduation exercises in the early 1980s.

The State Normal School, now Towson State University, moved to Towson from Lafayette Square, Baltimore, in 1914-1915. A prime example of the Jacobean Revival, designed by Parker, Thomas and Rice, Stephens Hall served as a combined classroom, office, and administration building until 1971. It was named for Morse Bates Stephens, a state superintendent of education.

278