F-4-13
The Vindobona Hotel
Braddock Heights
Private

Ca. 1910

The Vindobona is a grouping of two former hotel buildings built about 1910 with an enclosed linking building, the only remaining principal structures of an early resort hotel complex of seven buildings near the early 20th century summer resort of Braddock Heights, a development of the Frederick and Middletown Railway. The two buildings have gambrel and gable roofs with aluminum siding and modern additions on the west elevation. The most visible reminders of the hotel period other than the general outlines of the two buildings are the fieldstone exterior chimney on the north building and a pair of stone gateposts near the north end of the property. Vindobona became a nursing home in the early 1950's and the original group of seven buildings was eventually demolished except for the Skyline and Roosevelt buildings. In their altered state, they are fair examples of early 20th century resort architecture. The Vindobona was a well-known retreat for prominent Washingtonians, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt's secretary, Grace Tully, whom Roosevelt visited at the hotel in 1934.

F-4-13
The Vindobona Hotel
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Arch., Landscape Arch., Comm. Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/hotel/hotel

Know Design Source: None

M75 P44 & 46

Survey No. F-4-13

Magi No.

DOE ___yes X no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Vindobona Hotel

and/or common Vindobona Nursing Home

2. Location

street & number 6012 Jefferson Blvd. ___ not for publication

city, town Braddock Heights ___ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	X other: nursing home

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Vindobona, Inc.

street & number P.O. Box 318 telephone no.:

city, town Braddock Heights state and zip code Md. 21714-0318

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title MHT Inventory of Historic Properties F-4-13

date 1980 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Md. SHPO

city, town Crownsville state Md. 21032

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-13

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
X fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 2

Vindobona is a connected group of two buildings with an enclosed link built about 1910 as a resort hotel which was converted to a nursing home in the early 1950's. Once part of a group of seven buildings, the two remaining buildings are located on the west side of Jefferson Boulevard in the southern part of the village of Braddock Heights, Frederick County, Maryland. The two buildings are generally rectangular structures with gambrel and gable roofs, aluminum siding, and modern extensions on the west and north. The grounds of the nursing home correspond generally to those of the hotel, although a paved parking lot occupies the area north of the buildings. The structures have replacement aluminum or vinyl windows and composition roofs. An exterior stone chimney in the northernmost building is virtually the only exterior reminder of the home's use as a hotel.

Vindobona's two buildings are designated the Skyline building on the north and the Roosevelt building on the south. The Skyline building is 1-1/2 stories and has a gambrel roof with dormers on the north and south roof slopes. The exterior stone chimney is located on the north elevation. A three-bay facade in the gable end faced Jefferson Boulevard with a one-story porch and a modern canopy over the entrance drive. The windows have paired 1/1 aluminum replacement windows. The original windows in the Skyline building were 9/9, as seen in a circa 1953 postcard retained in the nursing home director's files. The second story windows were originally grouped in the east elevation in threes with a single window in the center bay. On the first story, the center entrance was flanked by windows adjoining the door surround and the outer bays each had a pair of windows. At the attic level were a pair of fan lights. The interior of the Skyline building once contained a lounge in the front section. It now has completely changed wall surfaces, dropped ceilings, and partitioned office space in the front and a cross hall with residents' rooms across the rear of the building, linking with the Roosevelt building via the one-story connecting building. An enclosed activity room at the rear of the Skyline building once was an open sun porch.

The Roosevelt building (so named for occasional visits to Vindobona by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the mid-1930's) is a gable roofed building with aluminum siding and a modern porte cochere at the east gable elevation. Like the Skyline building, it has a composition roof and replacement 1/1 aluminum sash. It has residents' rooms arranged along the south side of a central hall, with utility spaces on the north side adjoining the connecting building with the Skyline section. The interior floor plan only vaguely resembles the original configuration, as the hall has been widened and the rooms altered in size.

In 1980, a third building surviving from the original hotel complex was still standing and was described in the MHT inventory form completed at that time. This building was demolished shortly thereafter. A low fieldstone wall in front of the two remaining buildings, stone gateposts near the northeast corner of the property, and a one-story frame residence southwest of the Roosevelt building are the only features remaining of the hotel complex. The residence, which has been great

(Continued on separate sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-13

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	X social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates Ca. 1910 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: X A ___B X C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state X local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Vindobona is a fairly good example of the varied architecture of the summer resort of Braddock Heights, an early 20th century community which was developed by the Frederick and Middletown Railway to stimulate patronage of the rural trolley line between Frederick and Middletown, of which Braddock Heights was the approximate mid-point prior to the line's extension to Myersville and Hagerstown by 1920. Built about 1910 as a hotel by Oscar Coblentz, one of the officers of the Railway, the Vindobona had as many as seven buildings in its heyday, but only two much-altered connected buildings survive as a nursing home, their rooflines and orientation intact and an exterior stone chimney typical of mountain lodges suggesting the complex's former use.

The Vindobona was actually located south of the boundary of the platted area of Braddock Heights, but even in its early isolation as one of the first structures on lower Jefferson Boulevard it was considered a part of the resort community. The separation from the center of the village added to its fame, attracting prominent visitors who relished the spectacular views, the proximity to Washington, and the relative privacy.
Grace Tully, a secretary to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, recuperated from tuberculosis at the Vindobona for a short period in 1934 and was visited by Roosevelt at the hotel. Other well-known figures in government and society are reputed to have stayed at the Vindobona, although no guest records are available to confirm this.

Compared to the remaining hotels and inns in Braddock Heights, the Vindobona buildings have been more altered in finish and exterior additions as well as extensive change in the interior. Because the Vindobona was so large a group, it differed from most of the other resort residences which were mostly contained in one or two buildings. Its fame as a retreat for the publicity-shy of the 1930's and 1940's and the somewhat unusual configuration retain a moderate level of integrity for the complex. The only other building in the Braddock Heights vicinity to resemble the Vindobona in historical use if not in design is Casa Loma (F-4-11).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-13

Hooper, Anne B. Braddock Heights: A Glance Backward. Privately published, 1974.
Interview with Mrs. Kefauver, Director of Vindobona Nursing Home, Jan. 31, 1992.
MHT Inventory form, F-4-13, 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8 acres

Quadrangle name Middletown, Md. **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Concurrent with Tax Map 75 Parcels 44 & 46 which include bulk of original Vindobona Hotel grounds

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept **date** February 1992

street & number 12 E. Church Street **telephone** 696-2958

city or town Frederick **state** Md. 21701

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.

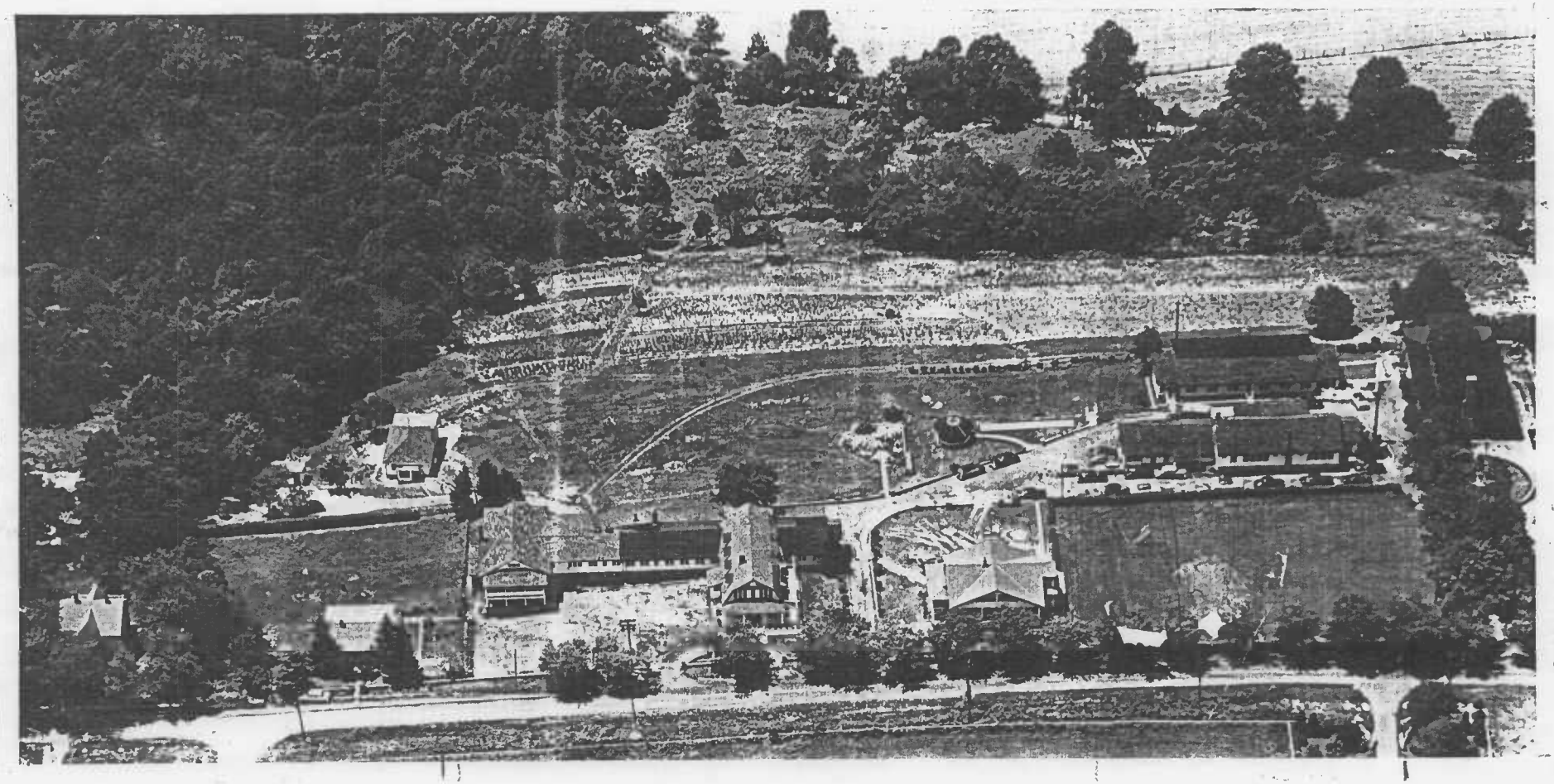
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

PS-2746

7.1 Description Continued

altered and no longer contributes to the significance of the group, was built probably during the 1920's or 1930's and was until recently leased to a Vindobona employee. An aerial view of the early 1950's shows the extent of the former hotel complex, which contained a dance pavilion, a dining room, and a gazebo, all of which have been demolished.



F-4-13
Vindobona Hotel
Frederick County
Aerial view from east, Ca. 1950-1955
Original at Vindobona Nursing Home office

F-4-13
Vindobona Hotel
Frederick County
Postcard view of Skyline Building, Ca. 1953
Original at Vindobona Nursing Home office

F-4-13 1910
Vindabona Nursing Home (Oscar Coblentz House)
Braddock Heights
Private

The Vindabona Nursing Home Building was built by Oscar Coblentz soon after 1910 when he purchased the property from the Braddock Building and Development Company.

The building is particularly significant to the Braddock Heights community as an example of the progressive Shingle style popular between 1880-1900.

The house was built during the building boom of Braddock Heights which, after the introduction of the Frederick and Middletown Electric Railway in 1896, became a popular summer resort.

The building is particularly characterized by a gable roof with long slopes and numerous porches and gables.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

F-4-13
1103036704

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Vindabona Nursing Home (Oscar Coblentz House)

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: North Side Jefferson Blvd.

CITY, TOWN: Braddock Heights — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Frederick

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		X NO - Demolished	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Vindabona Nursing Home, Inc.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN: Braddock Heights — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #: 659
Folio #: 344

STREET & NUMBER: North Court St.

CITY, TOWN: Frederick

STATE: Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE:

DATE:

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

CITY, TOWN:

STATE:

F-4-13

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	XX ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Vindabona Nursing Home Building is a two story frame building which faces south from the north side of Jefferson Boulevard in Braddock Heights with a panoramic view of Middletown Valley on the north.

The building is particularly characterized by a gable roof with long slopes and numerous porches and gables. Although the house is now covered with asbestos, many elements indicate a Shingle style of architecture.

The principal facade is nine bays wide. The main entrance, twin fifteen light doors with fifteen light sidelights, is located in the fourth bay. Flanking the main entrance on the first level are twin 9/6 windows and twin small 1/1 windows occupying the first and second and eighth and ninth bays.

One story open porch shelter by the overhanging gable roof extends across the entire front of the building and is supported by six boxed columns.

Located in the center of the gable on the second level are six bays. Located in the first two and last two bays are small wide 1/1 windows. Twin double hung 6/6 windows occupy the second, third, fourth, and fifth bays.

Each elevation of the house is characterized by a gently sloping gable roof. A one story porch is located on the east side of the house supported by three boxed columns. Two story porches are located on the east and north side of the house. Each first level porch is supported by plain boxed columns and surrounded by a paneled railing. The second level porch on the east side at the second level is enclosed in screen. The second level porch on the north side of the building is enclosed with ten pane window sashes. The house is dominated by its porches which were important to its function as a summer residence.

The house is covered by staggered butt asphalt shingles which have been replaced in spots. The entire house is constructed on a tile block foundation which is banked. A small interior chimney rises from the center of the building.

In order to accommodate the nursing home function, substantial changes have been made to the interior of the building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

F-4-13

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1910 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Oscar Coblentz

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Vindabona Nursing Home Building was built by Oscar Coblentz soon after 1910 when he purchased the property from the Braddock Building and Development Company.[1]

The building is particularly significant to the Braddock Heights community as an example of the progressive Shingle style popular between 1880-1900.

The house was built during the building boom of Braddock Heights which, after the introduction of the Frederick and Middletown Electric Railway in 1896, became a popular summer resort.

Oscar Coblentz, builder of the house, was an active and prominent citizen of the community. He attended St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland and returned to become principal of Middletown High School in 1903. In 1904 he became civil engineer of Frederick and acted as engineer for the Frederick and Middletown Electric Railway. In 1907 he graduated from Law School at the University of Maryland and a year later became superintendent of schools in Frederick County.[2] He served as secretary of the Braddock Building and Development Co. which purchased a large parcel of land on Braddock Mountain in order to develop the summer community.

The land which Coblentz purchased had several conditions. They were:

> "The main building and frontage must be facing the road, no hog pen or other objectionable buildings, all water closets and sanitary closets must be in the main building and no part of the land may be sold or leased to Negroes."[3]

The house was used as a summer or private residence until 1952 when the Weinbergs sold it to the Medical Arts Building.[4]

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[1]Frederick County Land Records, Liber 290; Folio 565.

[2]T.J.C. Williams, History of Frederick County Maryland, Regional Publishing Company: Baltimore, Maryland, 1967, Reprint 1910.

[3]Frederick County Land Records, Liber 290; Folio 565.

[4]Ibid., Liber 510; Folio 160.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

F-4-13

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Williams, T.J.C., History of Frederick County Maryland, Regional Publishing Co.: Baltimore, Maryland, 1967, Reprint of 1910.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

clh

NAME / TITLE
Cherilyn E. Widell, Coordinator

ORGANIZATION
Frederick County Office of Historic Preservation

DATE
5/20/80

STREET & NUMBER
Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church St.

TELEPHONE
694-1063

CITY OR TOWN
Frederick

STATE
Maryland

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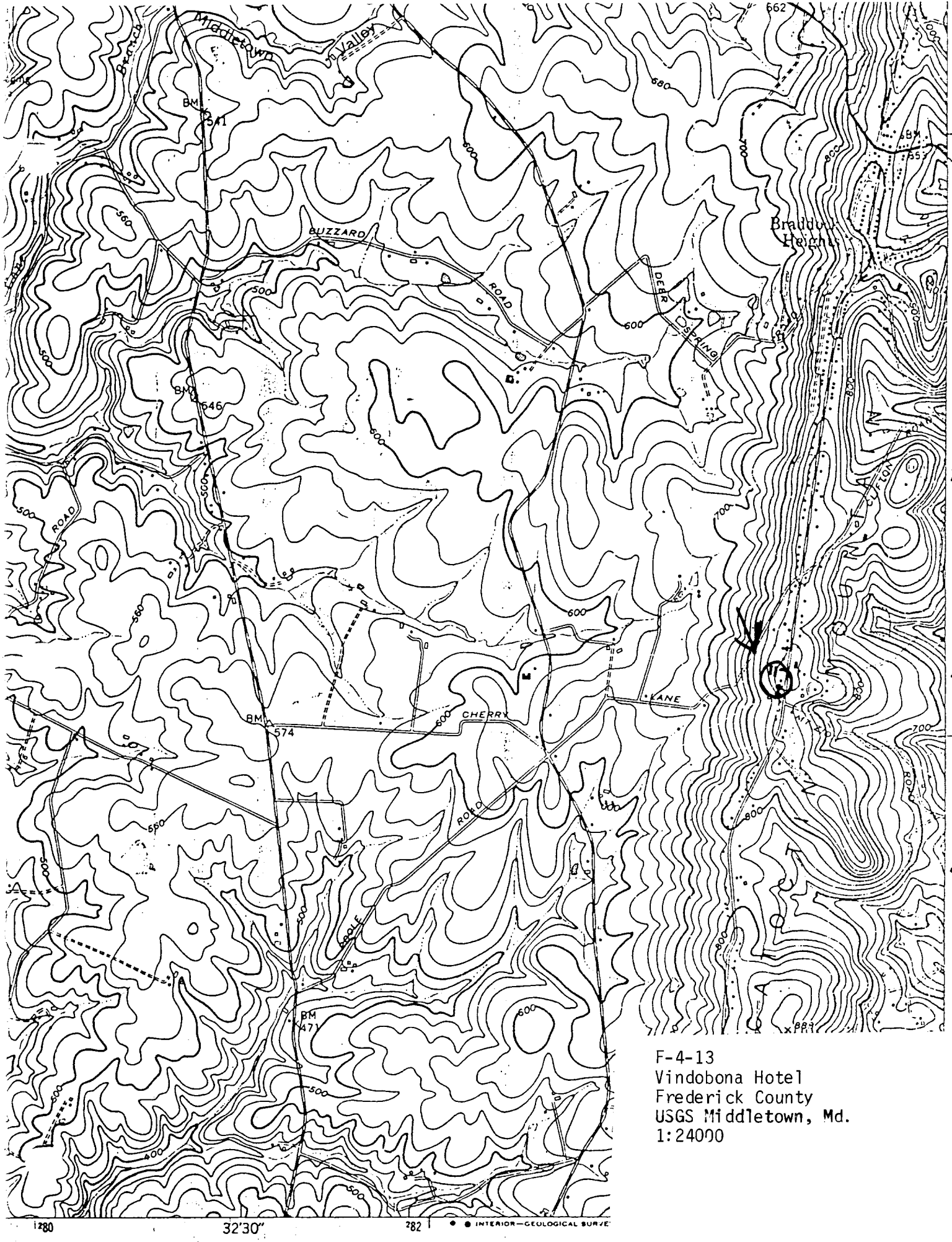
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

MIDDLETOWN QUAD

F-4-13

F-4-13
KINDABONA
NOUSING HOMA



F-4-13
Vindobona Hotel
Frederick County
USGS Middletown, Md.
1:24000

F 4 / 3
Windsbrier [illegible]
Fredrick [illegible]
Photo: Janet [illegible]
January 1990
Neg. loc. [illegible]
Roosevelt Bldg. [illegible] elevation
2/3

F-4-13
Vindabona Nursing Home
N/S Jefferson Blvd
Braddock Heights
CEN 3/80
North West elev

F-4-13
VINDA BONA
Nursing Home
N/S Jefferson Blvd
Braddock Heights
CEN 3/80
SOUTHEAST ELEV