

Tarbert House
HA 1893

This two-story frame house is located on the west side of Main Street in Cardiff, Maryland. The structure is two bays wide and two bays deep, with a narrow front porch on the eastern facade. Known as the Tarbert house for the family who had lived there for fifty years, it is not known for whom this circa 1900 house was built. Richard Roberts was the first owner of this defined Main Street building lot, which was one of several that he purchased from the South Delta Land Company in 1899. A member of the Roberts family presumably had the house built.

As owners of the metal foundry in Cardiff, the Roberts were a prominent Welsh family in town. Identified on and listed among the commercial concerns of the 1888 Delta map, the early Roberts and Wilhelm (later trading as R. Roberts and Son) metal foundry had a distinct and important place in the inter-workings of the town's slate industry, building cranes and operating machinery for the quarries.

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HA 1893

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Tarbert House

2. Location

street & number 1640 Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Cardiff vicinity of congressional district 5th

state Maryland county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name William M. and G. Yvonne Bishop

street & number 1640 Main Street telephone no.: (410) 836-1700

city, town Cardiff state and zip code Maryland, 21024

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber CGH1639

street & number 20 W. Courtland Pl. folio 248

city, town Bel Air state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. HA 1893

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" 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	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

This two-story frame house is located on the west side of Main Street in Cardiff, Maryland. The structure is two bays wide and two bays deep, with a narrow front porch on the eastern facade.

A projecting pedimented gable with returns protrudes from the north-south gable roof, capping a two-story three-sided bay window. In addition to the original central chimney, a cinder block flue runs up the north side of the house and is offset slightly to the east. The house is light blue in color and sided with asbestos shingles. As with the majority of structures in the town, the roof is comprised of shingled slate and the foundation is of coursed slate.

The main entrance and matching second-story window articulate the southern-most front bay. The entrance is further enhanced by another projecting pedimented gable off the porch roof, which complements the larger projecting gable of the main roof. The main entrance has a single-pane transom and three-pane sidelights. The two-story three-sided bay window of the north bay have single windows flanking a double middle window on both the first and second stories. Windows are of the 1/1 sash variety. On the north side of the house, windows define each of the four bay openings, with a four-pane window in the basement aligned with the west bay windows and a single 1/1 window at the peak. A small porch and utility room with a shed roof are situated at the rear of the structure, with the two upper bays defined by windows. The south side contains three windows, one centered in the attic, and upper and lower west bay windows.

Of the turn-of-the-century vernacular homes in Cardiff, this has a bit more Victorian decoration on the exterior, with cut-out brackets, pendants and cut-out edging along porch fascia board, a gable finish, scrolled lintels, scalloped siding in the gables, and decorated fascia above the bay window. The house is extremely airy, with windows provided at every opportunity. The interior plan is asymmetrical, with simple living spaces that have been renovated. A locally unusual and original feature of the interior is an archway between the living room and the dining area. The stairway, which has turned balusters and newel post, is in original condition.

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 checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

Known as the Tarbert house for the family who had lived there for fifty years, it is not known for whom this circa 1900 house was built.¹ Richard Roberts was the first owner of this defined Main Street building lot, which was one of several that he purchased from the South Delta Land Company in 1899. This particular lot abutted the family's metal foundry properties to the east. A member of the Roberts family presumably had the house built².

As owners of the metal foundry in Cardiff (first Roberts and Wilhelm, then R. Roberts and Son, and lastly trading under Richard Roberts and Robert Roberts), the Roberts were a prominent Welsh family in town. Identified on and listed among the commercial concerns of the 1888 Delta map, the early Roberts and Wilhelm metal foundry had a distinct and important place in the inter-workings of the town's slate industry, building cranes and operating machinery for the quarries. (The original site as identified on the Delta 1888 map is south of the site established in 1890.) The foundry maintained its significance throughout the operating years of the various slate quarries and the Maryland Green Marble quarry. Now in its fifth generation of family ownership under Gary Thompson, R. Roberts and Son continues to operate in metal fabrication.

An interesting aside: Robert Roberts, son of Richard Roberts, was responsible for the renaming of South Delta to Cardiff in 1900.³

¹As seen in a 1906 postcard of Main Street, Old Line Museum, April 14, 1995. Built after South Delta Land Company subdivided, approximately 1899.

²This was also suggested by Richard Roberts great-granddaughter, Gloria R. Thompson, in a conversation May 2, 1995.

³As mentioned in conversation with Donald Robinson, April 14, 1995, and verified by Gloria R. Thompson.

TARBERT HOUSE

Title Search

CGH 1639/248	May 31, 1990	Grantor: Michael J. Atkin Grantee: William M. and G. Yvonne Bishop Acreage: 16 perches
CGH1342/127	August 26, 1986	Grantor: Michael and Bonnie Hawley Grantee: Michael J. Atkin Acreage: 16 perches
HDC 1041/507	September 16, 1977	Grantor: David L. and Wanda A. Felts Grantee: Michael and Bonnie Hawley Acreage: 16 perches
HDC 927/740	June 1, 1973	Grantor: Hazel Tarbert White (as personal representative for Katherine M. Tarbert, a.k.a.Katherine M. Torbert) Grantee: David L. and Wanda A. Felts Acreage: 16 perches
DGW 183/265	July 30, 1923	Grantor: Robert L. and Ellen Roberts Grantee: Katherine M. Torbert Acreage: 16 perches, improvement indicated
DGW 183/275	July 27, 1923	Grantor: Philip Close (trustee, as appointed in Equity Case DWG 120/350, Robert L. Roberts v. William J. Roberts) Grantee: Robert L. Roberts Granted: All assets of partnership, to include property and foundry machinery
WSF 104/455	July 2, 1901	Grantor: Richard and Ann Roberts Grantee: Robert L. Roberts Granted: 1/4 interest in land described in deed ALJ 68/47 and all land described in 95/224
WSF 95/224	January 21, 1899	Grantor: South Delta Land Company Grantee: Richard Roberts Granted: Several lots fronting Main Street, abutting foundry site/lots.
WSF 88/282	May 26, 1896	Grantor: Stevenson A. Williams (trustee, as appointed in Equity Case WSF 41/351 Elizabeth J. Parry v. Margaret Parry et al.) Grantee: South Delta Land Company (via James Poff, agent) Granted: a part of the lands described in equity case (less than 19 acres) to be subdivided into town building lots

WSF 73/148	January 1, 1892	Grantor: John Wilhelm Grantee: Richard Roberts Granted: his interest in metal foundry lands
Plat book DGW 2/64	1891	Survey plat of lots to be subdivided, South Delta Land Company
Will Records WS 10/440	September 12, 1888	John Parry, quarryman, bequeaths to his son, Richard Parry, all his remaining lands, approximately 17 acres, and 1/6 of his shares in the Welsh Slate Company of Harford County

BIBLIOGRAPHY
Tarbert House

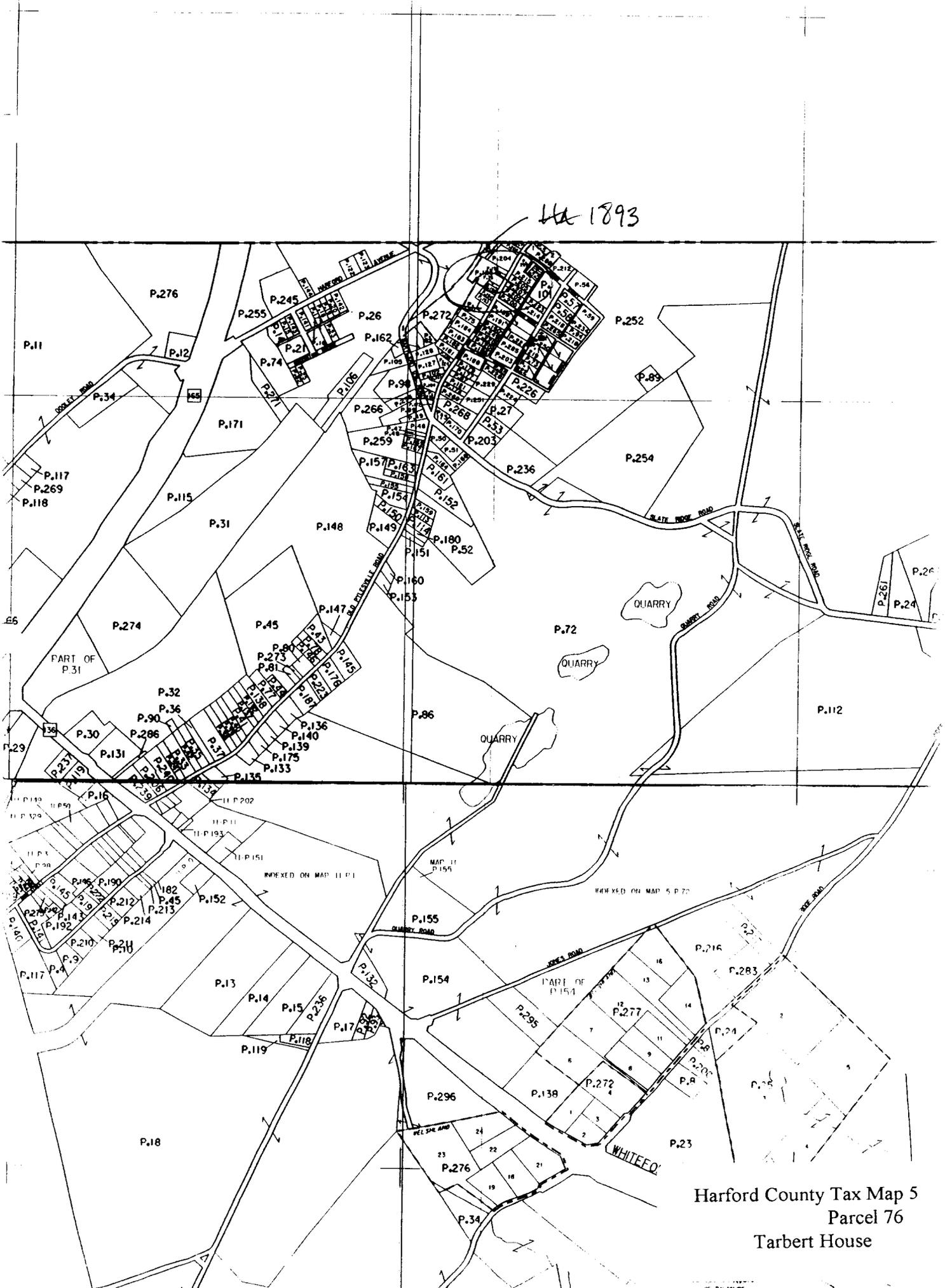
Conversation with Mrs. Darcy Lloyd, April 11, 1995

Conversation with Mr. Donald Robinson, April 14, 1995

Conversation with Mervyn and Gloria (Roberts) Thompson, May 2, 1995

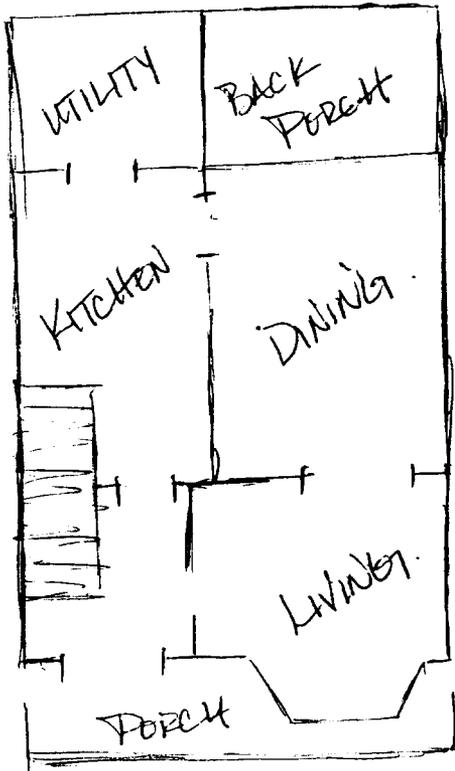
Postcard, Old Line Museum. Circa 1906 (according to handwritten documentation of postcard)

HA 1893

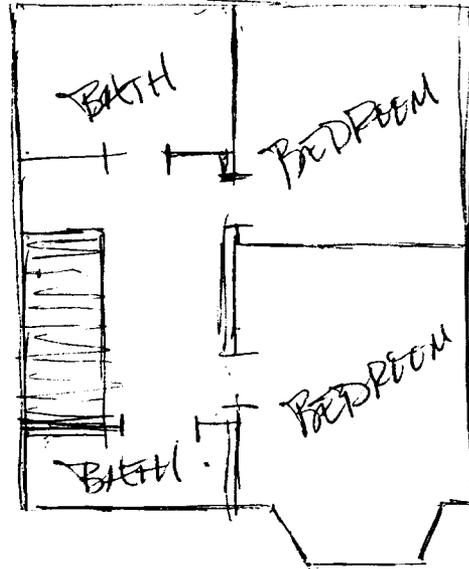


Harford County Tax Map 5
 Parcel 76
 Tarbert House

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



Floor Plan Layout
Tarbert House

NA-1293

150 000 FEET
(PA.)

4399

4398

42'30"

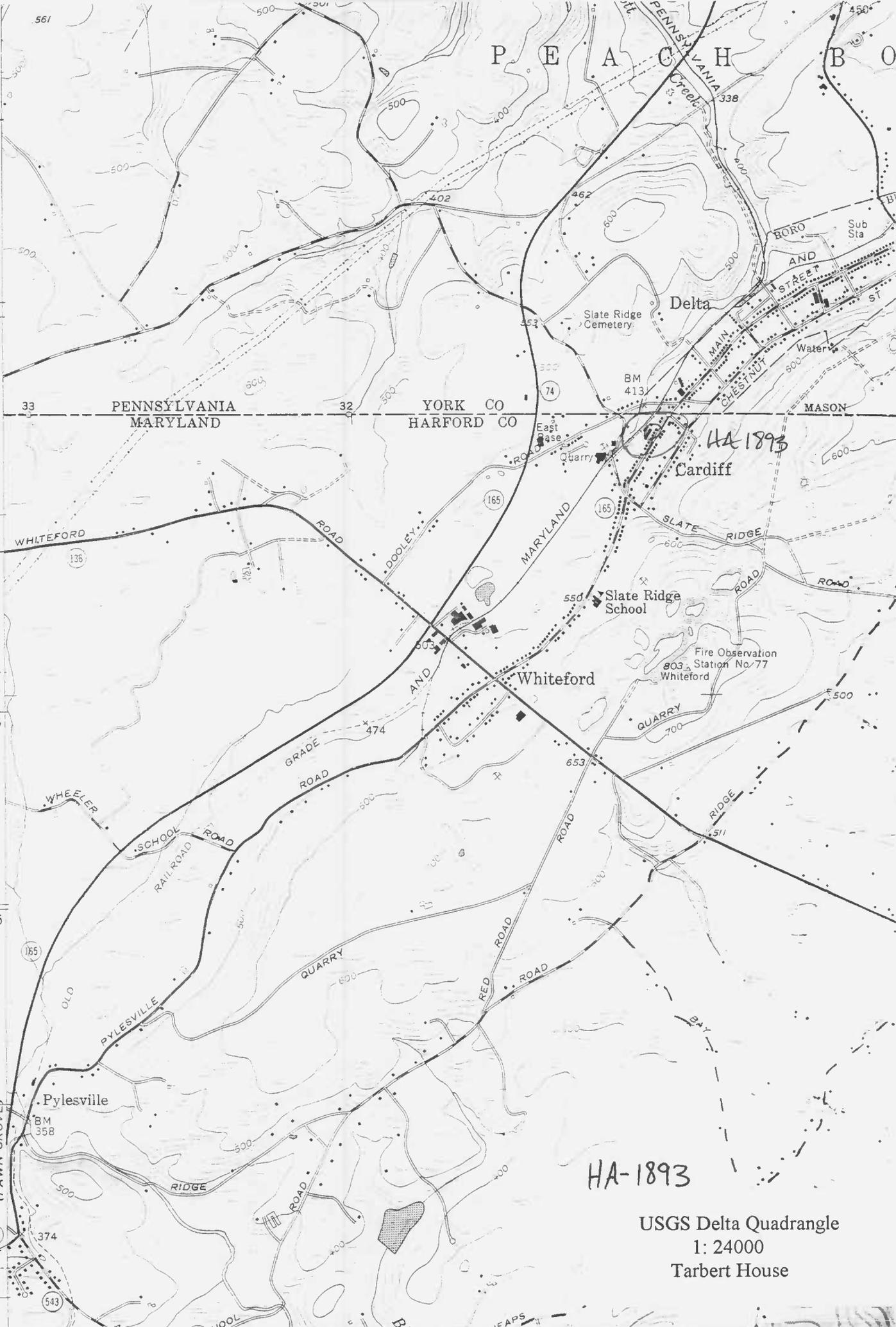
4396

4395

FIVE FORKS 3 MI.
GRACEY TUN 0.6 MI.

5763 III NW
(FAWN GROVE)

HILL 6.4 MI.
RNER 2.1 MI.



PENNSYLVANIA
MARYLAND

YORK CO
HARFORD CO

P E A C H B O

Delta

Cardiff

Whiteford

Pylesville

HA-1893

USGS Delta Quadrangle
1: 24000
Tarbert House



1640

HA 1893

Tarbert House

Hartford County, Maryland

Dianne H. Klain

April 1995

Maryland SHTE

~~Carroll County Department of Planning, Zoning, & Public~~

View west from main house garage.

1 of 5



HA 1893

Tarbert House
Harford Court, Maryland

Dianne H. Kent

April 1995

Maryland SHPE

~~Chris Weeks, Department of Planning and Zoning, City~~

View Southwest from Main Street, Cardiff

2 of 5



1640

HA 1793

Tambert House

Harford County, Maryland

Conrad H. Klau

April 1995

Maryland SHPE

~~Chris Weeks, Department of Planning & Zoning, 3rd Floor~~

View west from Main Street, Harford

3 3 5



HA 1893

Tarbert House

Archd Court, Maryland

Diamond Island

April 1995

Maryland SHPC

~~Chris Walker, Department of Planning & Library, Bel Air~~

View West from Main Street, Cardiff

4 of 5



HA 1893

Tarbert House

Harford County, Maryland

View - - -

April 1995

Maryland SHPE

~~Chris Walter, Department of Planning & Zoning, Talbot Co.~~

View of interior, archway between living and dining rooms; as taken from living room

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