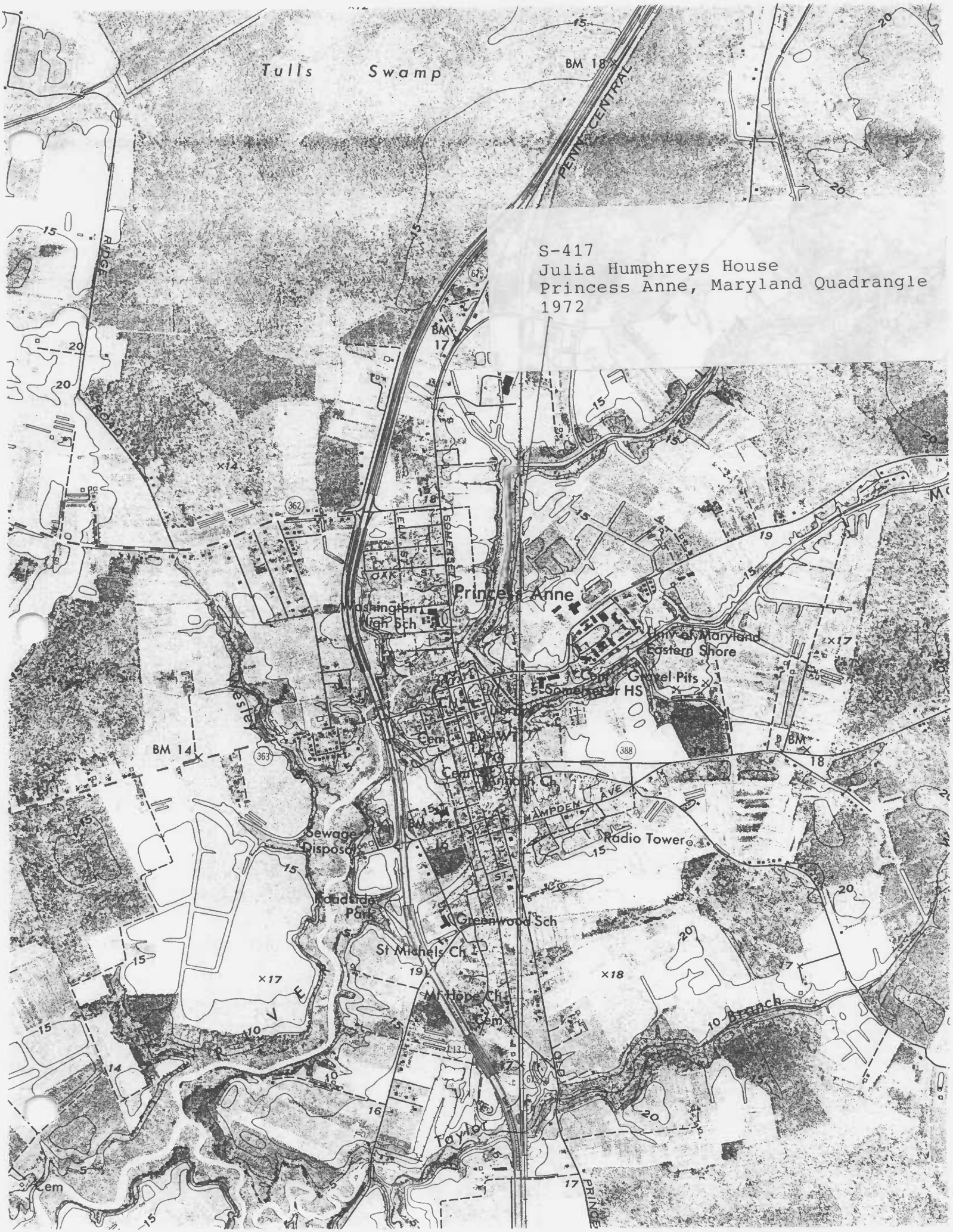
S-417
Julia A. Humphreys House c. 1893
Princess Anne
Private

Located at 212 S. Somerset Avenue is the Julia A. Humphreys house, erected around 1893. Humphreys purchased the unimproved lot from Thomas H. Bock in August of that year, and it is reasonable to assume she financed the construction of the house shortly afterwards. The eaves of the two-and-a-half story, center hall frame house are trimmed with decorative Victorian brackets and bargeboards. Most noteworthy is the hip-roofed front porch, which is supported by turned posts and embellished with sawnwork. Similar to contemporary houses located south of it, this house has dentiled brick chimneys piercing the roofline.

S-417
Julia Humphreys House
Princess Anne, Maryland Quadrangle
1972



S-417, Julia A. Humphreys house, east elevation.

S-391, Banes Layfield house, southeast elevation.

tinguished by multiple gables sheathed with fish-scale shingles and a two-story, semi-octagonal tower on the southeast corner. The tower roof is finished with a flame-shaped finial, and narrow brick stove stacks rise to each side. Colored glass windows and a wraparound porch are additional Victorian features that provide interest.

Thomas H. Bock, part owner of the Cohn and Bock Milling Company, which operated in Princess Anne through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, financed the construction of this Victorian house on Somerset Avenue. More recently the property was the site of the Levin Wilson funeral home, but within the past few years the house has been converted into apartments.

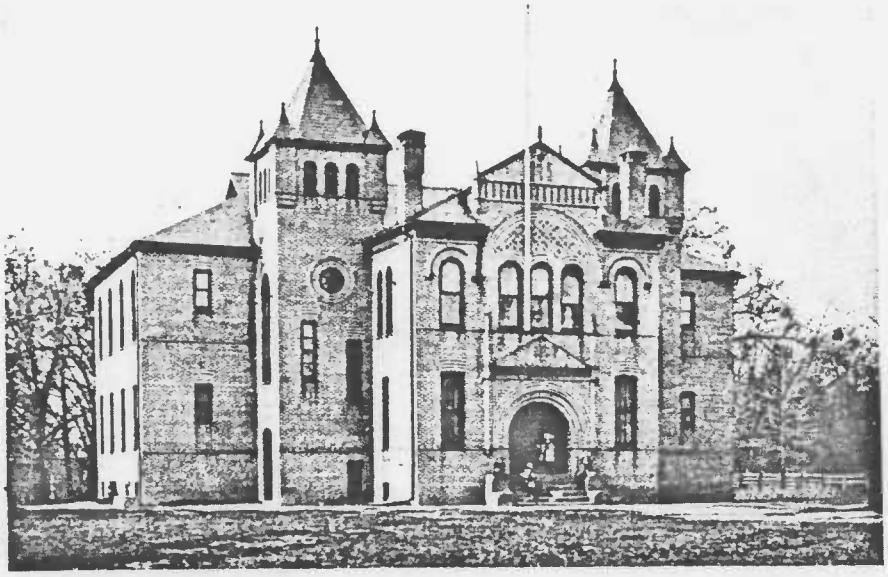
OLD WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
1891-1892
Princess Anne (site)
Private

During a November 1890 meeting of the board of trustees for the Washington Academy, President John W. Crisfield submitted his opinion on the condition of the old academy building erected in 1801 (see S-412). He believed the structure, located on a rural site, had reached such a poor state of repair that it would be prohibitively expensive to rework the aging building. A few months later Daniel Collins, a local brick manufacturer, was asked to assess the academy, and in April 1891 he reported

To the Trustees of the Washington Academy, building probably contains 250,000 [bricks]....to be worked into a new wall 200,000 could be obtained, brick good quality, very few salmon or soft bricks; large quantity of timber, The gable above the front door outside seems to have for many years leaked fearfully, and all the timber to this extent and below it is rotten; all the rest seems to be in good preservation. We counted 31 pannel doors; sound and in good condition and may be used again.

Later that month the academy trustees conferred with the School Board of Somerset County and agreed to join together in the construction of a "new school building in which can be accomodated, with comfort and convenience both the high school and the primary schools of the said town."

With materials from the 1801 Washington Academy building, masons and carpenters began work during the summer of 1891 on a stylish new brick school west of the Beechwood estate. More than any other building known to stand in Somerset County at the time, the new Washington High School



S-414, Old Washington High School, c. 1900, E.I. Brown—photographer (courtesy of W. Marshall Scott).

S-390, Henry L. Brittingham house, southeast elevation.

S-393, Edmund D. Young house, northeast elevation.

reflected the massive proportions and decorative exuberance of Romanesque Revival architecture as borrowed from the architect Henry Hobson Richardson. E. I. Brown's turn-of-the-century photograph of the build- aptures the highly decorative brick patterns and molded brick courses that highlighted the arched entrance and window openings. Dominating the structure was a pair of three-story stair towers marked by an assortment of window openings and capped by slate pyramidal roofs. This expressive Victorian building stood a relatively short period of time, for it was razed during the late 1930s when plans were advanced to build a new high school on the northern edge of town.

JULIA A. HUMPHREYS HOUSE
Circa 1893
Princess Anne
Private

Located at 212 South Somerset Avenue is the Julia A. Humphreys house, erected around 1893. Humphreys purchased the unimproved lot from Thomas H. Bock in August of that year, and it is reasonable to assume she financed the construction of the house shortly afterwards. The eaves of the two-and-a-half story, center hall frame house are trimmed decorative Victorian brackets and barge- ds. Most noteworthy is the hip-roofed front porch, which is supported by turned posts and embellished with sawnwork. Similar to contemporary houses located south of it, this house has dentiled brick chimneys piercing the roofline.

BANES LAYFIELD HOUSE
Circa 1885
Princess Anne
Private

The Banes Layfield house is a standard two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, center hall frame house erected during the late nineteenth century. Although not recognized for any unusual exterior features, the cross-gabled residence adds to the turn-of-the-century atmosphere of South Somerset Avenue. Subtle details that contribute interest to the dwelling are the dentiled brick chimneys and the round-arched windows in each gable.

HENRY L. BRITTINGHAM HOUSE
Circa 1890
Princess Anne
Private

The Henry L. Brittingham house is a large, T-shaped, late nineteenth century frame dwelling that stands in a line of contemporary buildings on the west side of South Somerset Avenue. Although the house has been moderately remodeled and converted to a dentist's office, the two-and-a-half story dwelling retains a mixture of Victorian and Colonial Revival features. The eclectic residence contributes to the uninterrupted row of period houses that characterize south Princess Anne.

Henry L. Brittingham purchased this lot in July 1887, when this section of the "Beckford" tract was being subdivided into building lots. The house was apparently erected within the next few years. Brittingham occupied the house until the early twentieth century, and his heirs, H. Lawrence and James Francis Brittingham, sold the house and lot in 1921. In later years the property was the home of William B. and Ethel M. Long. More recently Dr. Richard Arnold and Martha Louise Bevan used the house as a residence and office.

EDMUND D. YOUNG HOUSE
Circa 1900
Princess Anne
Private

Located in the southernmost residential block facing South Somerset Avenue, the Edmund D. Young house is a less elaborate example of the Queen Anne style than its nearby neighbor the Thomas H. Bock house. More conservative in decorative finishes, this irregularly shaped frame house has a two-story, five-sided corner tower and a wrap-around porch supported by Tuscan columns.

The house was erected for Edmund D. Young, who purchased an unimproved lot from Thomas H. and Angie L. Bock, who lived next door. Edmund D. and Bessie B. Young occupied this house until their deaths in 1927 and 1929, respectively. The property remained in their daughters' hands until 1950.