

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #67-10 Building Date: ca. 1891

Building Name: Wetherald House

Location: 8411 58th Avenue, Berwyn Heights, Marland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Wetherald House is a two-and-one-half-story frame cross-gable dwelling with a porch around two sides. It is distinguished by a decorative tri-partite window with balcony in the principal elevation. Entrance is in the third bay of the west gable end through an eight-panel door with a single pane transom. Sheltering this west gable end, and wrapping around the entire north facade, is a one-story shed-roof porch. It is supported by plain square posts, and has a plain balustrade railing, as well as a frieze course of plain railing. Above the rail frieze is a molded cornice. There is a corbelled brick chimney in the north plane of the roof. Centered in the west gable end at loft level is a decorative tri-partite window which opens onto a shallow ornamental balcony. There is a shallow cross gable on the south facade, while the (rear) east facade extends to form a shallow and narrower gable end. Extending farther to the east is a two-story, one-by-one-bay kitchen wing; wrapping around its northeast corner is a one-story hip-roof enclosed shed of corrugated metal.

Significance

The Wetherald House is a good example of a late Victorian suburban dwelling. Of fairly simple plan, it is distinguished by a decorative tri-partite window and balcony and is one of the earliest dwellings built in the 1888 town of Charlton Heights, now known as Berwyn Heights. The Town of Charlton Heights was platted in 1888 by Edward Graves, on 383 acres of land bounded by the Branchville Road and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Graves sold the land to the Charlton Heights Improvement Company in that year, and the company immediately began construction of dwellings ordered by pattern through the mail. The subject house was built ca. 1891 by the Charlton Heights Improvements Company. It was probably constructed from a pattern book design as were the other early houses in Charlton Heights. This is one of the houses which Edward Graves purchased from the Company in 1892. When it was sold in 1899, the property was described as "a substantial and comfortable Cottage Residence." In 1914 the house and 4 lots were sold to Joseph and Sallie Wetherald; it has been the home of the Wetherald family since then. The Wetherald house is an important reminder of the first dwellings in this late Victorian suburb, and is a distinctive landmark in Berwyn Heights.

Acreage: 40,000 square feet

7. Description

Survey No. PG#67-10

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

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

The Wetherald House is a two-and-one-half-story frame cross-gable house. It has a porch around two sides of the house, and is distinguished by a decorative tri-partite window with balcony in the principal elevation. It is one of the earliest dwellings built in the 1888 town of Charlton Heights, now known as Berwyn Heights.

The main block is two-and-one-half-stories high, roughly three bays by three bays. Entrance is in the third bay of the west gable end (which faces toward 58th Avenue), through an eight-panel door with a single pane transom. Sheltering this west gable end, and wrapping around the entire north facade, is a one-story shed-roof porch. It is supported by plain square posts, and has a plain balustrade railing, as well as a frieze course of plain railing. Above the rail frieze is a molded cornice. The porch rests on brick and concrete piers. The westerly (front) porch is surrounded and screened by evergreens. There is a side entrance, with single pane transom, in the first bay of the north facade.

The building is covered with gray asbestos shingle. The gable roof is covered with green asphalt shingle; the narrow cornice has a crown molding, below which is a plain board frieze. There is a corbelled brick chimney in the north plane of the roof. The building rests on brick foundation. Windows are generally 1/1 double hung sash, and have narrow molded surrounds; on the first story of the west gable end, the windows are full-length. There are no shutters.

Centered in the west gable end at loft level is a decorative tri-partite window which opens onto a shallow ornamental balcony. The window consists of a central 20-pane sash, flanked by two curved two-pane side-lights.

There is a shallow cross gable on the south facade, while the (rear) east facade extends to form a shallow and narrower gable end. Extending farther to the east is a two-story, one-bay-by-one-bay kitchen wing; wrapping around its northeast corner is a one-story hip-roof enclosed shed of corrugated metal.

The principal west entrance leads into a small side entry room. An arched opening on the left leads into the front (west) parlor, which in turn leads into the rear (east) parlor. The fire place in the front parlor now has a modern brick surround which replaces the original Victorian mantel.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. PG#67-10

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

A doorway leads east from the entry room into the enclosed stairhall, in which the two-run staircase rises to the second story. Door and window surrounds are of multi-band molding with bulls-eye corner blocks.

The house stands on a parcel composed of four lots. North of the house is a garden plot. Access to the house from 58th Avenue is by a small flight of steps and a sidewalk which leads to the main entrance. The driveway is to the south of the house, and leads east to a garage constructed of earth-color concrete block. This garage is one-and-one-half stories, with gable roof. Entrance is in its south gable end, and it has an exterior flight of steps to a door in its north gable end. There is a gable-roof dormer in the east plane of the roof.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#67-10

Period	Area of Significance—Check and justify below:			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates: ca. 1891-0's Builder/Architect: Charlton Heights Improvement Co.

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
Level of Significance: national state local

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

The Wetherald House is a good example of a late Victorian suburban dwelling. Of fairly simple plan, it is distinguished by a decorative tripartite window and balcony, and is one of the earliest dwellings built in the 1888 town of Charlton Heights, now known as Berwyn Heights.

In 1887, Edward Graves of Washington, D.C. purchased 383 acres south of the Branchville Road and bounded on the west by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. He engaged the firm of Newby and Howell to survey and plat a new residential community, and called it Charlton Heights.¹ The plat of 1888 showed 50-foot-wide streets, criss-crossing at varied angles, and lots of approximately 50 by 200 feet. Graves sold the land in 1888 to the Charlton Heights Improvement Company, which immediately began construction of dwellings ordered by pattern through the mail. Within the same year, the Company began to sell lots, some unimproved, and some with new houses already erected.² By the end of the first year, approximately 20 houses had been built, and the new town became the home principally of professionals who used the Baltimore and Ohio railroad to commute into Washington, D.C.³

For the next three years, the Charlton Heights Improvement Company continued to sell lots, but with only limited success. In 1892, Edward Graves, the developer, and James Waugh, secretary of the Company, both of whom resided in Charlton Heights, bought the remaining unsold lots; they continued to sell them, and the Charlton Heights Improvement Company ceased operations. In 1896, by an act of the Maryland General Assembly, the town was incorporated, and its name was changed to Berwyn Heights. It continued to grow slowly; by 1910, the population was slightly over 150, and there were 38 dwellings.⁴ Today most of the lots have been filled in by 1950's subdivision housing, and Berwyn Heights is a quiet residential community with curving streets and old trees, set back and somewhat secluded, between two major highways.

The subject house was built ca. 1891 by the Charlton Heights Improvements Company, one of the second group of houses built by the company in

Charlton Heights. It was probably constructed from a pattern book design (the specific design has not yet been identified), as were the other early houses in Charlton Heights. This is one of the houses which Edward Graves purchased from the Company in 1892 (cf. 67-11 and 67-19).⁵ Graves sold the house and four lots in 1894 to Daniel Birtwell, who borrowed part of the purchase price and then failed to meet the payments. The Equity Court appointed a trustee to sell the property; the sale took place 29 May 1899 at the Berwyn Station, and the property was described as "a substantial and comfortable Cottage Residence and its appurtenances."⁶

After the sale, this property was held by a series of short term owners until 1917 when it was acquired by Margaret Walker. Mrs. Walker sold the house and four lots in 1940 to Joseph and Sallie Wetherald; it has been the home of the Wetherald family to the present day. As soon as they moved in, the Wetheralds constructed the garage behind the house, and in the years since that time have undertaken minor changes to the house.⁷ Although mostly obscured by plantings around its principal west front, the house is still highly visible from the north, or garden side; it is an important reminder of the first dwellings in this late Victorian suburb, and is a distinctive landmark in Berwyn Heights today.

Notes

1 Prince George's County Deeds, JWB #9:127, 130; Prince George's County Plat, JWB #10:309.

2 Prince George's County Deeds, JWB #11:543; R. W. Shoppell Modern Houses, 1887; Artistic Modern Houses at Low Cost, 1888; Beautiful Homes, 1887; Building Plans for Modern Low Cost Houses, 1884, etc.; cf. Charlton Heights Improvement Company deeds, 1888.

3 Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1888-1890; Census for Prince George's County, E. D. #1, 1900.

4 JWB #20:496; JWB #21:225; JWB #22:53; G. M. Hopkins map, 1894; Census for Prince George's County, E.D. #1, 1900, 1910; Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1890-1910; Skarda, D.D., Berwyn Heights - History of a Small Maryland Town.

5 Prince George's County Deed JWB #21:225; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1888-1900.

6 Prince George's County Deeds JWB #30:64; JWB #31:483; JB #5:441; Prince George's County Equity #2581.

7 Prince George's County Deeds #29:218; #127:320; #572:319; #5490:610. Interview with owners, spring 1986.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #67-10

Cf. Notes, Item #8
Cf. Chain of Title

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 20,000 square feet

Tax map #33, Block 14

Quadrangle name Washington East, Section C

Quadrangle scale Lots 20 & 21

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing							

B

Zone	Easting			Northing							

C

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D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission date August 1986 and September 1987

street & number c/o County Planning, M-NCPPC telephone 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

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

Chain of Title
Wetherald House
PG #67-10

#6657:782
27 May 1987
Thomas Wetherald to Francis and Susan Soloducha, Block 14, lots 20 and 21 in Berwyn Heights.

#5490:610
15 Dec 1981
Deed
Samuel Ianni, personal representative of Joseph J. Wetherald, deceased, surviving tenant of Sallie B. Wetherald who died 1972, to Thomas Wetherald; Block 14, lots 18 to 21 in Berwyn Heights, same deccribed in #572:319.

#572:319
4 Nov 1940
Deed
Margaret Walker to Joseph and Sallie Wetherald, Block 14, lots 18-21 in Berwyn Heights.

#127:320
10 Aug 1917
Deed
Edward and Eunice Chace to Margaret Walker, Block 14, lots 18-21, Berwyn Heights.

#29:218
8 Sept 1905
Deed
Priscilla Freeland et al to Edward and Eunice Chace, Block 14, lots 18-21, Berwyn Heights.

JB #5:441
31 Aug 1899
Deed
David Briscoe, attorney, to Maria Freeland of Baltimore, high bidder at public sale, May 1899; Block 14, lots 18-21, Berwyn Heights.

#2581
1899
Equity
Freeland vs. Birtwell; Daniel Birtwell mortgaged two pieces of property in 1895 to M. Freeland for a loan of \$2400; Birtwell then defaulted in payment. Court decreed sale, and Briscoe was appointed to sell; one of the parcels sold to high bidder Maria Freeland was Block 14, lots 18-21 in Berwyn Heights, which had on it "a substantial and comfortable Cottage Residence and its appurtenances."

JWB #31;483
3 Jan 1895
Mortgage
Daniel and Alice Bertwell of D.C. to Maria Freeland to secure a loan of \$2400, two parcels of land: Block 14 lots 18-21 and Block 7, lots 5-6 in Berwyn Heights.

JWB #30;64
9 Aug 1894
Deed
Edward Graves of D.C. to Daniel Birtwell of D.C. for \$6500, two properties in Berwyn Heights, Block 23, lot 27, and Block 14, lots 18-21.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #67-10 Building Date: ca. 1891

Building Name: Wetherald House

Location: 8411 58th Avenue, Berwyn Heights, Marland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Wetherald House is a two-and-one-half-story frame cross-gable dwelling with a porch around two sides. It is distinguished by a decorative tri-partite window with balcony in the principal elevation. Entrance is in the third bay of the west gable end through an eight-panel door with a single pane transom. Sheltering this west gable end, and wrapping around the entire north facade, is a one-story shed-roof porch. It is supported by plain square posts, and has a plain balustrade railing, as well as a frieze course of plain railing. Above the rail frieze is a molded cornice. There is a corbelled brick chimney in the north plane of the roof. Centered in the west gable end at loft level is a decorative tri-partite window which opens onto a shallow ornamental balcony. There is a shallow cross gable on the south facade, while the (rear) east facade extends to form a shallow and narrower gable end. Extending farther to the east is a two-story, one-by-one-bay kitchen wing; wrapping around its northeast corner is a one-story hip-roof enclosed shed of corrugated metal.

Significance

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Acreage: 40,000 square feet

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Wetherald House

and/or common Wetherald House

2. Location

street & number 8411 58th Avenue not for publication

city, town Berwyn Heights vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Thomas R. Wetherald

street & number 8411 58th Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Berwyn Heights state and zip code Md. 20740

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. Co. Courthouse liber #5490

street & number Main Street folio 610

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input 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.

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The building is covered with gray asbestos shingle. The gable roof is covered with green asphalt shingle; the narrow cornice has a crown molding, below which is a plain board frieze. There is a corbelled brick chimney in the north plane of the roof. The building rests on brick foundation. Windows are generally 1/1 double hung sash, and have narrow molded surrounds; on the first story of the west gable end, the windows are full-length. There are no shutters.

Centered in the west gable end at loft level is a decorative tri-partite window which opens onto a shallow ornamental balcony. The window consists of a central 20-pane sash, flanked by two curved two-pane side-lights.

There is a shallow cross gable on the south facade, while the (rear) east facade extends to form a shallow and narrower gable end. Extending farther to the east is a two-story, one-bay-by-one-bay kitchen wing; wrapping around its northeast corner is a one-story hip-roof enclosed shed of corrugated metal.

The house stands on a parcel composed of four lots. North of the house is a garden plot. Access to the house from 58th Avenue is by a small flight of steps and a sidewalk which leads to the main entrance. The driveway is to the south of the house, and leads east to a garage constructed of earth-color concrete block. This garage is one-and-one-half stories, with gable roof. Entrance is in its south gable end, and it has an exterior flight of steps to a door in its north gable end. There is a gable-roof dormer in the east plane of the roof.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1891 **Builder/Architect** Charlton Heights Improvement Co.

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
Level of Significance: national state local

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For the next three years, the Charlton Heights Improvement Company continued to sell lots, but with only limited success. In 1892, Edward Graves, the developer, and James Waugh, secretary of the Company, both of whom resided in Charlton Heights, bought the remaining unsold lots; they continued to sell them, and the Charlton Heights Improvement Company ceased operations. In 1896, by an act of the Maryland General Assembly, the town was incorporated, and its name was changed to Berwyn Heights. It continued to grow slowly; by 1910, the population was slightly over 150, and there were 38 dwellings.⁴ Today most of the lots have been filled in by 1950's subdivision housing, and Berwyn Heights is a quiet residential community with curving streets and old trees, set back and somewhat secluded, between two major highways.

The subject house was built ca. 1891 by the Charlton Heights Improvements Company, one of the second group of houses built by the company in

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#67-10

Cf. notes, item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 40,000 square feet Tax Map 33, Block 14, lots 18-21
Quadrangle name Washington East, Section C Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission date August 1986

street & number c/o County Planning, MNCPPC telephone 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro state MD.

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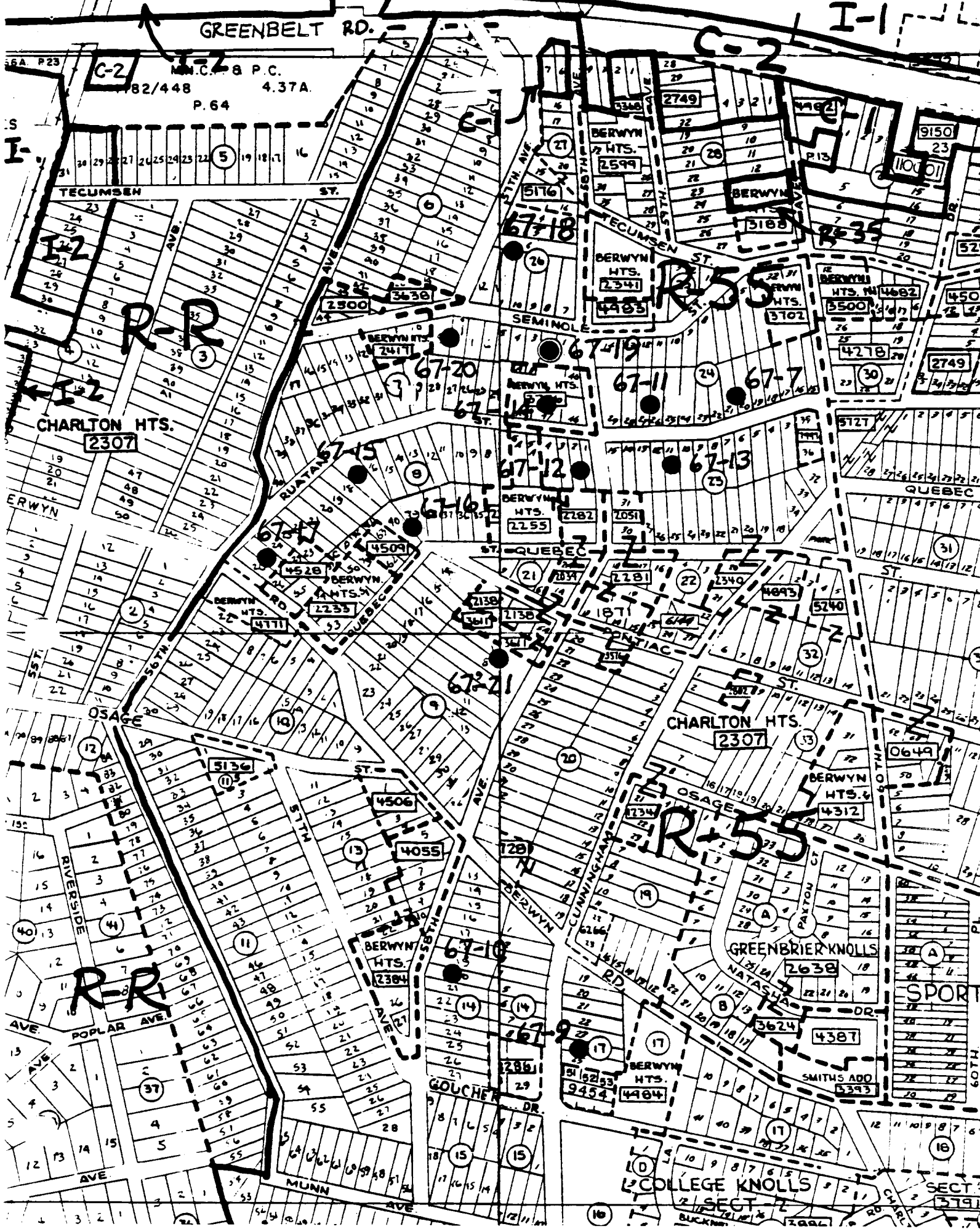
3 Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1888-1890; Census for Prince George's County, E. D. #1, 1900.

4 JWB #20:496; JWB #21:225; JWB #22:53; G. M. Hopkins map, 1894; Census for Prince George's County, E.D. #1, 1900, 1910; Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1890-1910; Skarda, D.D., Berwyn Heights - History of a Small Maryland Town.

5 Prince George's County Deed JWB #21:225; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1888-1900.

6 Prince George's County Deeds JWB #30:64; JWB #31:483; JB #5:441; Prince George's County Equity #2581.

7 Prince George's County Deeds #29:218; #127:320; #572:319; #5490:610. Interview with owners, spring 1986.



GREENBELT RD.
 C-2 M.M.C. & P.C.
 82/448 P.64 4.37A.

TECUMSEH ST.

R-R

CHARLTON HTS.
 2307

OSAGE ST.

R-R

CHARLTON HTS.
 2307

R-55

GREENBRIER KNOLLS
 2638

COLLEGE KNOLLS



PG#67-10

Wetherald House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
North elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#67-10

Wetherald House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#67-10

Wetherald House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Southeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#67-10

Wetherald House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Detail, from southwest
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#67-10

Wetherald House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
View from west
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#67-10

Wetherald House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Garage, from northwest
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.