

11

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #67-21 Building Date: 1909

Building Name: Elwood J. Taylor House

Location: 8516 58th Avenue, Berwyn Heights, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Elwood J. Taylor House is a two-and-one-half-story frame house with hip roof. It is of the "Classic Box" style, but is distinguished by an asymmetric projecting gable on the main east facade. The house is square, three-by-three-bays, and the siding is covered with white asbestos shingle. The east facade is sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch supported by Tuscan columns on bases of molded concrete blocks. The porch wraps around to shelter part of the south facade; this southerly section of the porch is enclosed, forming a one-story addition. Behind the porch, the first bay of the south facade projects to form a one-story, three-window, semi-octagonal bay. The upper ridge, above the hip, is defined by four tin acroteria. A tall brick stove chimney rises at the north. The first two bays of the west facade are covered by a one-story hip-roof porch, now enclosed. To the rear, in the long lot which stretches to the west of the house, are four outbuildings, associated with the first owner's chicken-raising operations.

Significance

The Elwood J. Taylor House is a good example of an early twentieth century "Classic Box" dwelling. Distinguished by a projecting gable on the principal facade and a wrap-around Tuscan porch, it was built in 1909 on one of the lots platted for the 1888 town of Charlton 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 in 1909 for Elwood J. Taylor, an electrician for the Telephone Company, by William G. Fisher, a builder from Berwyn. Plans, elevations and specifications were prepared by Fisher, and the house was to be built for \$2,300. The Taylor family moved into the finished house in 1909; the property remained in the possession of his family until the death of his widow, Sallie, in 1966. The Taylor House is a good example of the "Classic Box" dwelling which was popular at the turn of this century. It is distinguished by its off-center projecting gable and it is a distinctive landmark in the community of Berwyn Heights.

Acreage: 89,000 square feet

Survey No. P.G. #67-21

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Elwood Taylor House

and/or common Lofgren House

2. Location

street & number 8516 58th Avenue not for publication

city, town Berwyn Heights, vicinity of congressional district 5

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

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

name Darald Lofgren

street & number 8516 58th Avenue telephone no.:

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

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 3422

street & number Main Street folio 509

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG#67-21

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.

The Elwood J. Taylor House is a two-and-one-half-story frame house with hip roof. It is of the "Classic Box" style, but is distinguished by an asymmetrical projecting gable on the main east facade. The house stands on one of the original lots of the 1888 town of Charlton Heights, now known as Berwyn Heights.

The house is square, three bays by three bays, and the siding is covered with white asbestos shingle. Entrance is in the third bay of the east facade, through a panelled door with glazed upper panel and decorative egg-and-d t molding. The northerly entry bay projects slightly from the facade and rises to a cross gable at third level; within the pediment formed by the second story roof is a small triangular window. The entire east facade is sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch (now screened) supported by Tuscan columns on bases of molded concrete blocks. The porch wraps around to shelter part of the south facade; this southerly section of the porch is enclosed, forming a one-story addition. Behind the porch, the first bay of the south facade projects to form a one-story, three-window, semi-octagonal bay.

Windows are generally 1/1 double hung sash. They have plain board surrounds with a projecting outer bead, and green louvered shutters. The roof is covered with dark asphalt shingle, which replaces the original slate. The upper ridge, above the hip, is defined by four tin acroteria; this section of the roof is still covered with the original tin. The eaves of the roof have a deep overhang. A tall brick stove chimney rises at the north. The building rests on a foundation of molded concrete block, which encloses a basement. Entrance to the basement is through a bulkhead in the third bay of the west (rear) facade. The first two bays of this west facade are covered by a one-story hip-roof porch, now enclosed, which rests on molded concrete block piers.

Interior plan of the house includes four nearly equal spaces, with entrance into the stairhall in the northeasterly space. The two-room open-string stair rises along the north (exterior) wall of the stair hall, turns 90° at a landing, and rises along the west wall to the second story. The staircase has a square paneled newel, and turned balusters.

Interior moldings are typical of the period, with multi-band surrounds and bulls-eye corner blocks. The wide doorways between stair hall and living room, and between the living room and dining room, once had decorative grille work (according to the original floor plans), but nothing remains of these embellishments.

A "cabinet mantel" is shown on the floor plan in the northwest corner of the living room; this was probably removed at the time of the expansion of the dining room. Circa 1950, the south wall of the living room was

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. PG#67-21

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

removed, and the south section of the wrap-around porch was enclosed to enlarge the living room by one bay to the south. The cabinet mantel, of fine Classical Revival style, was stored in one of the sheds, and has been installed by the present owner in the expanded section of the living room. At approximately the same time as the living room expansion, the kitchen was modernized; a small modern window replaces the original one in the kitchen's north elevation. It is likely that the moldings from the original kitchen window were used for one of the new windows in the enlarged living room.

With the exception of these interior changes, and the covering of the original German siding with asphalt shingles, the house remains in near original condition.

To the rear of the house, in the long lot which stretches to the west, are four outbuildings, associated with the first owner's chicken-raising operations.

Immediately west of the house is a gable-roof building with board-and-batten siding painted white. It has two 6/6 windows in its south facade as well as a small shed extension. The building rests on a concrete foundation and its roof is covered with asphalt shingle.

Farther west is a shed-roof chicken house on a high foundation of concrete and pebbles, with a below-grade space entered from the north. It is covered with German siding painted white, and its shed roof (which slopes down to the north) is covered with tin. It has four large openings on the south elevation.

Just west of this building is a larger two-story chicken house. On the second story of the south elevation are four full-size windows, under which are four narrow horizontal openings. This building has a shed roof covered with tin, has board-and-batten siding painted white, and rests on a concrete foundation.

South of this building is a long low shed of newer construction. It is covered with board-and-batten siding painted white, and rests on a concrete foundation. The rear lot on which these outbuildings stand is arranged like a small park, with flower beds, patios and picnic benches.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #67-21

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
<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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1909 Builder/Architect William G. Fisher

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 Elwood J. Taylor House is a good example of an early twentieth century "Classic Box" dwelling. Distinguished by a projecting gable on the principal facade and a wrap-around Tuscan porch, it was built in 1909 on one of the lots platted for the 1888 town of Charlton 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.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. P.G. #67-21

Section 8 Page 2

The subject house was built in 1909 for Elwood J. Taylor, an electrician for the Telephone Company from Washington, D.C. In October 1908, Taylor purchased five adjoining (unimproved) lots in Block 9 of Berwyn Heights. In February 1909 he contracted with William G. Fisher, a builder from Berwyn, to construct a frame house on one of those lots. Plans, elevations and specifications were prepared by Fisher, and the house was to be built for \$2,300. The house was to be two-and-one-half stories with slate roof and tin-sheathed deck, foundation of molded ("rock face") concrete blocks, and porch with Tuscan ("colonial") columns on piers of the same molded block.⁵

The Taylor family moved into the finished house in 1909; Elwood Taylor spent the rest of his life in this house, serving four terms as a Commissioner of the Town of Berwyn Heights. He constructed a number of chicken houses in the yard to the rear (west) of the house, and engaged in the raising of prize-winning Wyandotte chickens.⁶ The property remained in the possession of his family until the death of his widow, Sallie, in 1966. By this time, the Taylors had acquired and sold several lots both to the north and the south of the house; the two children of Elwood and Sallie Taylor, in November 1966, sold the house and the remaining two lots to the present owner.⁷

The Taylor House is a good example of the "Classic Box" dwelling which was popular at the turn of this century. It is distinguished from the most common symmetrical design of this dwelling by its off-center projecting gable, and it is especially significant in that the present owner has the original building contract and plans in his possession. It is a distinctive landmark in the community of 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 #50:7; Contract, plans, elevations and specifications, February 1909, in possession of owner.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. P.G. #67-21

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6 . Skarda, D. D., Berwyn Heights - History of a Small Maryland Town;
Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1908-1915; Census for Prince
George's County, 1910.

7 Estate File #17020; Prince George's County Deeds #1572:28; #3422:509.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #67-21 Building Date: 1909

Building Name: Elwood J. Taylor House

Location: 8516 58th Street, Berwyn Heights, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Elwood J. Taylor House is a two-and-one-half-story frame house with hip roof. It is of the "Classic Box" style, but is distinguished by an asymmetric projecting gable on the main east facade. The house is square, three-by-three-bays, and the siding is covered with white asbestos shingle. The east facade is sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch supported by Tuscan columns on bases of molded concrete blocks. The porch wraps around to shelter part of the south facade; this southerly section of the porch is enclosed, forming a one-story addition. Behind the porch, the first bay of the south facade projects to form a one-story, three-window, semi-octagonal bay. The upper ridge, above the hip, is defined by four tin acroteria. A tall brick stove chimney rises at the north. The first two bays of the west facade are covered by a one-story hip-roof porch, now enclosed. To the rear, in the long lot which stretches to the west of the house, are four outbuildings, associated with the first owner's chicken-raising operations.

Significance

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Acreage: 89,000 square feet

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Elwood Taylor House

and/or common Lofgren House

2. Location

street & number 8516 58th Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Berwyn Heights, ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland 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 Darald Lofgren

street & number 8516 58th Avenue telephone no.:

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

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 3422

street & number Main Street folio 509

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD. 20772

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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Windows are generally 1/1 double hung sash. They have plain board surrounds with a projecting outer bead, and green louvered shutters. The roof is covered with dark asphalt shingle, which replaces the original slate. The upper ridge, above the hip, is defined by four tin acroteria; this section of the roof is still covered with the original tin. The eaves of the roof have a deep overhang. A tall brick stove chimney rises at the north. The building rests on a foundation of molded concrete block, which encloses a basement. Entrance to the basement is through a bulkhead in the third bay of the west (rear) facade. The first two bays of this west facade are covered by a one-story hip-roof porch, now enclosed, which rests on molded concrete block piers.

To the rear, in the long lot which stretches to the west of the house, are four outbuildings, associated with the first owner's chicken-raising operations.

Immediately west of the house is a gable-roof building with board-and-batten siding painted white. It has two 6/6 windows in its south facade as well as a small shed extension. The building rests on a concrete foundation and its roof is covered with asphalt shingle.

Farther west is a shed-roof chicken house on a high foundation of concrete and pebbles, with a below-grade space entered from the north. It is covered with German siding painted white, and its shed roof (which slopes down to the north) is covered with tin. It has four large openings on the south elevation.

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
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<input checked="" 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 1909 **Builder/Architect** William G. Fisher

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.

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. P.G. #67-21

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

Just west of this building is a larger two-story chicken house. On the second story of the south elevation are four full-size windows, under which are four narrow horizontal openings. This building has a shed roof covered with tin, has board-and-batten siding painted white, and rests on a concrete foundation.

South of this building is a long low shed of newer construction. It is covered with board-and-batten siding painted white, and rests on a concrete foundation. The rear lot on which these outbuildings stand is arranged like a small park, with flower beds, patios and picnic benches.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. P.G. #67-21

Section 8 Page 2

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The Taylor family moved into the finished house in 1909; Elwood Taylor spent the rest of his life in this house, serving four terms as a Commissioner of the Town of Berwyn Heights. He constructed a number of chicken houses in the yard to the rear (west) of the house, and engaged in the raising of prize-winning Wyandotte chickens.⁶ The property remained in the possession of his family until the death of his widow, Sallie, in 1966. By this time, the Taylors had acquired and sold several lots both to the north and the south of the house; the two children of Elwood and Sallie Taylor, in November 1966, sold the house and the remaining two lots to the present owner.⁷

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Notes

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. P.G. #67-21

Section 8 Page 3

6 . Skarda, D. D., Berwyn Heights - History of a Small Maryland Town;
Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1908-1915; Census for Prince
George's County, 1910.

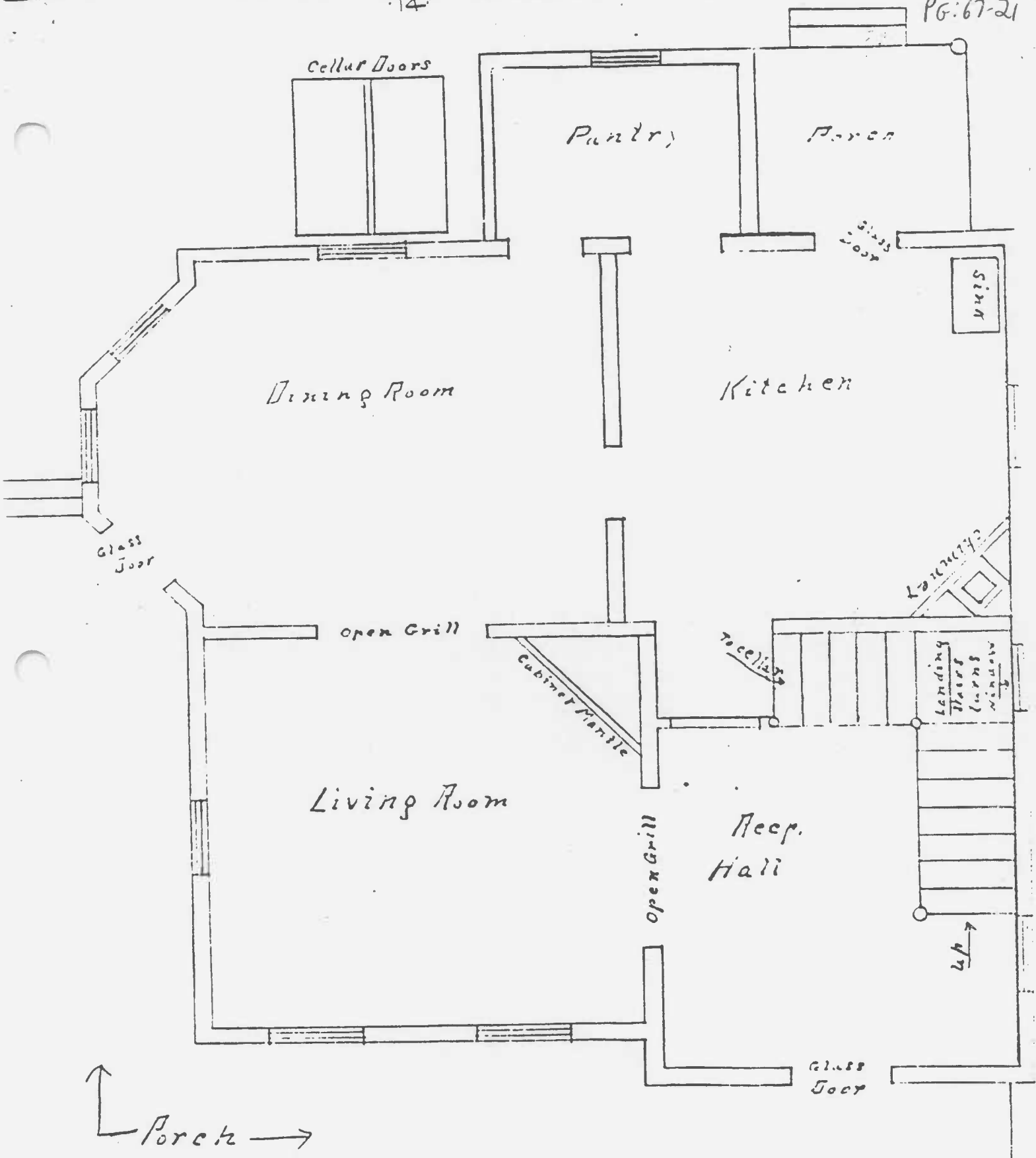
7 Estate File #17020; Prince George's County Deeds #1572:28; #3422:509.



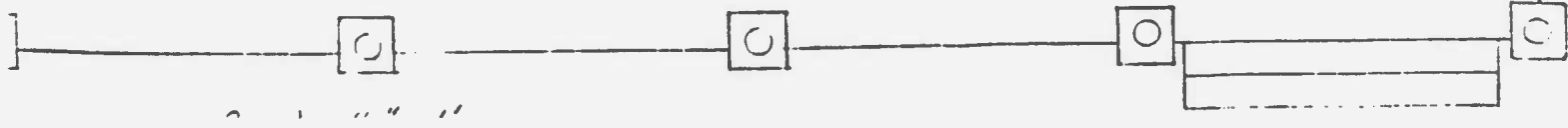
12.

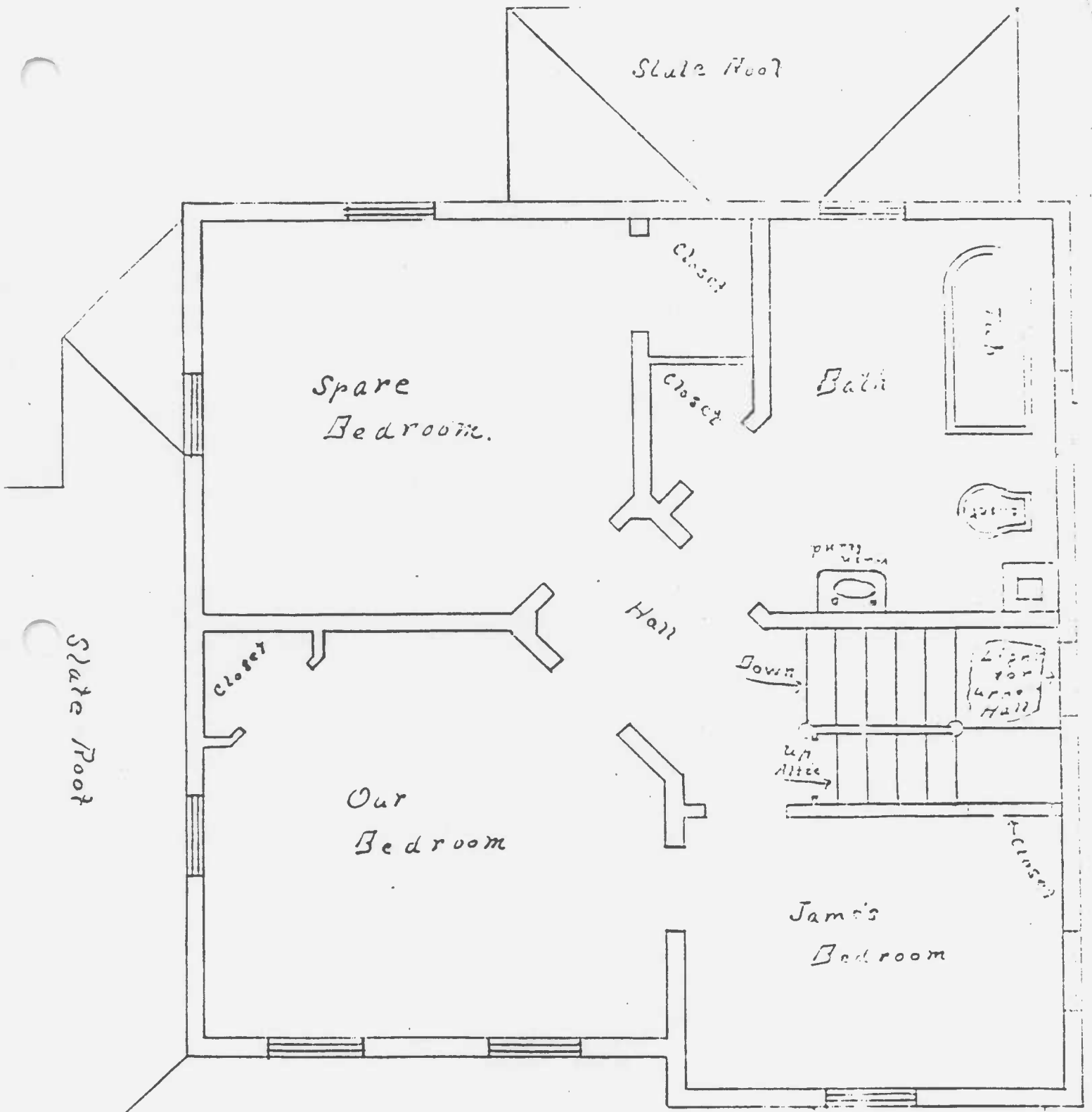
— STREET ELEVATION —
ORIGINAL DRAWING

PG: 67-21



FIRST LEVEL PLAN





— SECOND LEVEL PLAN —

Chain of Title
Elwood Taylor House
PG #67-21

#3422:509
28 Nov. 1966

Elizabeth T. Beall, and James and Marion Taylor, heirs of Sallie E. Taylor, deceased, to Darald and Sarah Lofgren. Block 9, Lots 7 and 8, part of Lots 1-6.

#17020
Estate File
1966

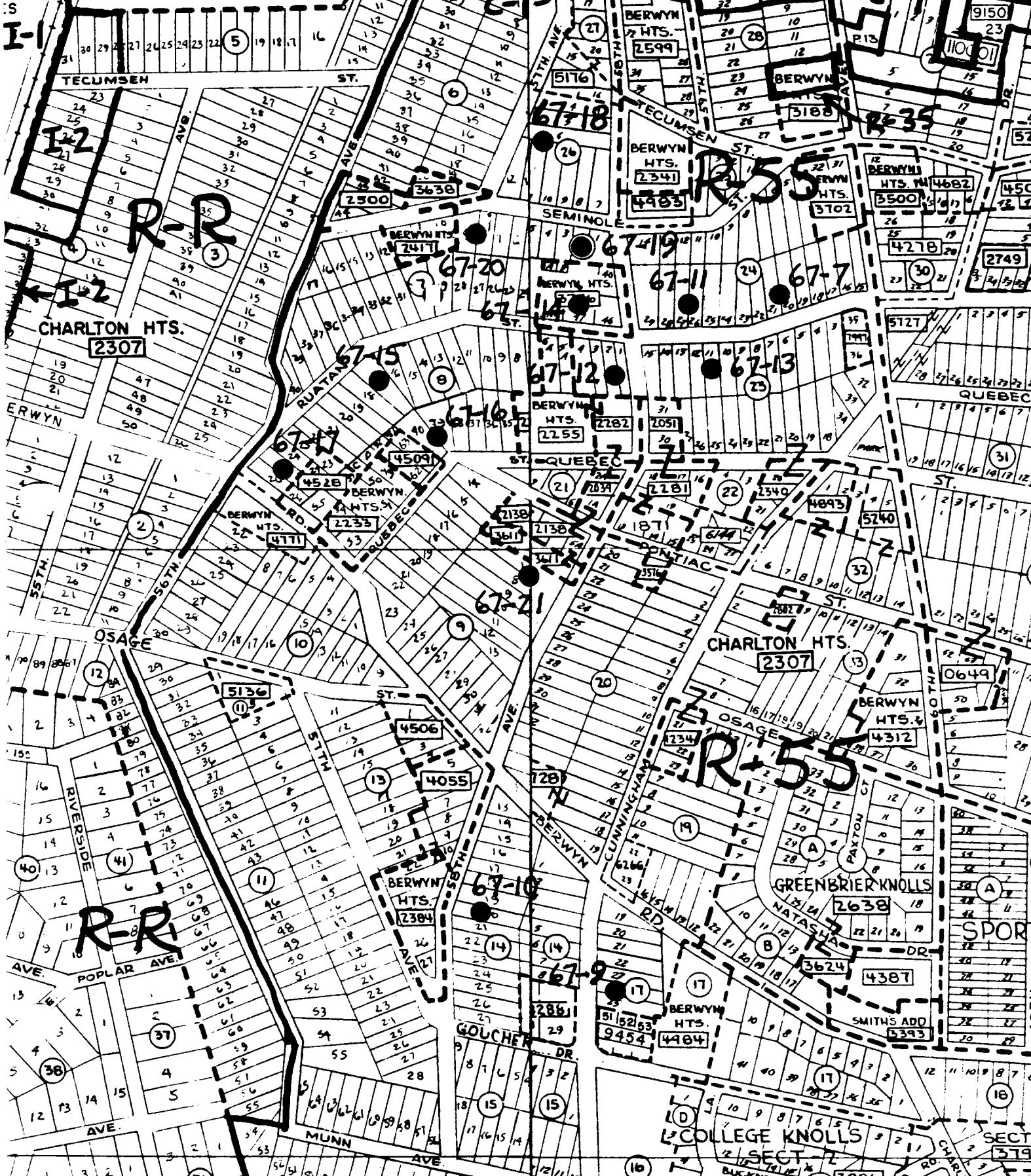
Sallie E. Taylor, widow of Elwood J. Taylor; died intestate 18 June 1966, leaving adult children, Elizabeth C.T. Beall and James E. Taylor, and leaving real estate (Block 9, Lots 7-8 and parts of Lots 1-6) in Berwyn Heights, on which is two-story frame dwelling at 8516 85th Avenue; room-by-room inventory.

#50:7
20 Oct. 1908
Deed

Samuel Yoder of D.C. to Elwood J. Taylor for \$1,000, Block 9, Lots 7-11, same property which Yoder acquired from W.W. Poultney, trustee, and which W.W. Poultney acquired from the Jacob Tome Institute.

GREENBELT RD.

M.C. & P.C.
82/448 4.37A.
P. 64



TECUMSEH ST.

R-R

CHARLTON HTS. 2307

OSAGE

R-R

POPLAR AVE.

MUNN AVE.

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P.G. #67-21

Elwood J. Taylor House
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #67-21

Elwood J. Taylor House
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
View from southwest
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #67-21

Elwood J. Taylor House
Prince George's County, MD.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.