

BA-3048

Church Lane African American Survey District

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 09-25-2012

BA-3048
Church Lane African American Survey District
Randallstown, Baltimore County
1900-1950

Church Lane is one historic African-American enclave located within the town of Randallstown in the Second District of Baltimore County. Church Lane is located northeast of Reisterstown Road and extends from McDonough Road on the west to Old Court Road on the east. The Church Lane Survey District within Randallstown includes thirteen dwellings and one church. The African-American community encompasses a much larger area than what is included in the Survey District as most of the area was developed in the 1950s and 1960s. The land on the north side of Church Lane was owned by an African-American doctor who sold the tract in the 1950s. Today, Church Lane maintains an African-American identity with the development of the area to the north. The low-income housing that was built in the 1950s and 1960s allowed many African-Americans to move to the community. What once was a small enclave of African-Americans is now a large community that does not have a discernable boundary other than Church Lane to the south.

The African-American community of Randallstown is inclusive of several small historic and non-historic neighborhoods. One such historic enclave is centered on Church Lane, located north and northeast of Liberty Road. It encompasses the area on the north side of Church Lane, extending from McDonough Road on the west and to Old Court Road on the east. The survey district not sited in a contiguous group is comprised of thirteen historic dwellings and one non-historic church. The dwellings primarily date from the early 20th century with several from the 1940s. The styles and forms represented throughout this survey district are Colonial Revival Four Squares, Cape Cods, and Craftsman Bungalows. Many of the historic dwellings along Church Lane were demolished in the 1950s and 1960s to accommodate new development. The houses surrounding the historic dwellings are one-story ranch houses and minimal traditional dwellings as well as more recent types including split level dwellings.

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3048

Condition

☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated
☒ good	☐ ruins
☐ fair	☐ altered

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

The African-American community of Randallstown is inclusive of several small historic and non-historic neighborhoods. One such historic enclave is centered on Church Lane, located north and northeast of Liberty Road. It encompasses the area on the north side of Church Lane, extending from McDonough Road on the west and to Old Court Road on the east. The survey district not sited in a contiguous group is comprised of thirteen historic dwellings and one non-historic church. The dwellings primarily date from the early 20th century with several from the 1940s. The styles and forms represented throughout this survey district are Colonial Revival Four Squares, Cape Cods, and Craftsman Bungalows. Many of the historic dwellings along Church Lane were demolished in the 1950s and 1960s to accommodate new development. The houses surrounding the historic dwellings are one-story ranch houses and minimal traditional dwellings as well as more recent types including split level dwellings.

The entire area has paved roads with sidewalks. Many of the houses are surrounded by foundation plantings, trees and shrubs. The area surrounding Church Lane is divided in a haphazard fashion with lots stacked behind each other with long driveways extending to the road. The more recent sections dating from the 1950s and 1960s are divided using either cul-de-sacs or winding roads that create irregular-shaped lots.

The earliest houses within the Church Lane Survey District date to circa 1900. These residences are two-stories in height and are of wood-frame construction. Resting on solid random-rubble stone foundations these dwellings are capped with side-gable roofs. Sited at the northeast corner of Church Lane and Brenbrook Drive, 8722 Church Lane is a wood-frame vernacular dwelling that dates to circa 1910. Rising two stories in height and measuring three bays wide, this house rests on a random-rubble stone foundation and is capped with a side-gable roof. The house is clad with asbestos shingles and above the asphalt-shingle roof is an exterior-end brick chimney.

The vernacular dwelling at 8730 Church Road was built in 1921. It rests on a solid rock-faced concrete-block foundation and features a wood-frame structural system. It is two stories high and measures three bays wide and features a central entrance. It is clad with vinyl siding and rising above the side-gable roof is a center-interior brick chimney. Covering the full width of the façade is a half-hipped roof porch featuring a solid rock-faced concrete-block balustrade and wood posts.

Two Craftsman-style bungalows improve the Church Lane Survey District. These houses are located at 8704 and 8708 Church Lane. The bungalow mimicked the plan and massing traditionally associated with the fashionable Queen Anne style; yet, the bungalow form was invariably one to one-and-a-half stories in height, rather than two to two-and-a-half stories. Although considered an architectural style, the bungalow is actually a form that is typically covered by a low-pitched, intersecting gable roof that encompassed the often-wrapping porch. The dwelling at 8704 Church Lane is one story in height and is reclad with formstone. Capped with a hipped roof this dwelling measures three bays across and features an inset porch. The wood-frame bungalow at 8708 Church Lane rests on a solid rock-faced concrete-block foundation and rises one-and-a-half stories high. It is covered with a hipped roof with a hipped dormer on the façade and features an porch across the first story.

Several Colonial Revival-style Four Square dwellings are extant along Church Lane including 8904 and 8714 Church Lane. The American Four Square was commonly ornamented with Colonial Revival- and Craftsman-style detailing. The two-story, four-room-per-floor house plan without a hall is a much-used concept that refers to the hall/parlor plan of the 18th century. As an outgrowth of nationwide pride brought about by the American centennial Celebrations of 1876, the Colonial Revival style appeared in 1880. The style draws upon many of the defining characteristics of the Colonial, Georgian, and Federal styles, such as accentuated main entries, symmetrically balanced facades, double-hung wood-sash windows, side-gable roofs, and classical detailing such as swags, urns, and white trim. Although attempting to mirror these earlier building styles, the new Colonial Revival buildings were constructed on a larger scale and used bolder detailing. When the Colonial Revival style first appeared, it was available exclusively to the wealthy clients of stylish architectural firms. Over time, the style increased in popularity and spread to the suburbs and rural areas where it became more modest in form and detailing. However the defining features discussed above

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3048

Name Church Lane African American Survey District
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

were still present, as noted at 8904 Church Lane and 8714 Church Lane. Constructed in 1924, the wood-frame dwelling at 8904 Church Lane is two-and-a-half-stories in height. It rests on a random-rubble stone foundation with raised mortar and measures two bays wide. It has a hipped roof and one interior brick chimney. The second Colonial Revival dwelling, 8714 Church Lane, was constructed in 1929 is a Four Square plan.

Variations of the Colonial Revival style include the Dutch Colonial Revival style represented at 8812 Church Lane. Built in 1933, this dwelling is wood frame and stands one-and-a-half-stories in height. It rests on a solid rock-faced concrete-block foundation and is capped with a gambrel roof. The Cape Cod was another dwelling form commonly exhibiting the Colonial Revival style, particularly along Church Lane in the 1940s. Examples include the two 1948 houses at 8708 and 8728 Church Lane.

Much of the area surrounding and within the survey district dates to the 1950s through the 1970s, making it difficult to create a historic district. Differentiation between 1950s tracts located off Church Lane are very similar to other 1950s tracts located north of Church Lane, such as the area north of Allenswood Road.

The dwellings dating from the 1950s and later are typically ranch-style houses. The dwellings in these areas maintain a consistent setback and are of similar construction and appearance. Standing one-story high and constructed of wood frame, the houses typically feature a brick veneer on the façade and measure four bays across. Foundations are poured concrete and the side and rear elevations are clad with aluminum or vinyl siding. Interior brick chimneys rise above the low-pitched side-gable roofs.

The Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church at 8615 Church Lane was constructed in the 1970s as a synogogue. This church is one-story high and is constructed of concrete blocks and poured concrete. The church was included in the Church Lane Survey District because of its importance to the Church Lane community. African-Americans developed their community on Church Lane because of the close proximity to their original church on Liberty Road (BA-2146). Associated with the church was a one-room schoolhouse sited directly behind the church. This school was constructed specifically for African-American children in the area. This schoolhouse is no longer extant. The Union Bethel Church moved to its current location in 1992.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-3048

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
☐ 1600-1699	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ health/medicine	☐ performing arts	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ archeology	☐ education	☐ industry	☐ philosophy	
☐ 1800-1899	☐ architecture	☐ engineering	☐ invention	☐ politics/government	
☒ 1900-1999	☐ art	☐ entertainment/ recreation	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion	
☐ 2000-	☐ commerce	☒ ethnic heritage	☐ law	☐ science	
	☐ communications	☐ exploration/ settlement	☐ literature	☐ social history	
	☒ community planning		☐ maritime industry	☐ transportation	
	☐ conservation		☐ military	☐ other:	

Specific dates 1900-1950

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1900-1950

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Church Lane is one historic African-American enclave located within the town of Randallstown in the Second District of Baltimore County. Church Lane is located northeast of Reisterstown Road and extends from McDonough Road on the west to Old Court Road on the east. The Church Lane Survey District within Randallstown includes thirteen dwellings and one church. The African-American community encompasses a much larger area than what is included in the Survey District as most of the area was developed in the 1950s and 1960s. The land on the north side of Church Lane was owned by an African-American doctor who sold the tract in the 1950s.(1) Today, Church Lane maintains an African-American identity with the development of the area to the north. The low-income housing that was built in the 1950s and 1960s allowed many African-Americans to move to the community. What once was a small enclave of African-Americans is now a large community that does not have a discernable boundary other than Church Lane to the south.

Over the course of the early 19th century, the community of Randallstown grew from the crossroads community established by John and Christopher Randall in the first half of the 18th century. By 1850, Randallstown had developed into a small residential and commercial center. The town boasted roughly fifty residents, two stores, and a tavern. By the early 1800s, Soldiers Delight Road became known as Liberty Road, for it led to Libertytown in eastern Frederick County. The first half of the 19th century there was an increased use of Liberty Road as settlements spread out in all directions from Baltimore.(2) Successful completion of the Baltimore and Liberty Turnpike in the mid-1860s resulted in a much faster trip to Baltimore from Randallstown and other towns to the west.(3) The 1850 Sidney Atlas denotes three dwellings located between Church Lane (originally called Church Road) and Scott's Level Branch to the north. These dwellings were owned by Wolf, T. Owings, and Israel Owings.(4)

By the late 1870s, the once modest community of Randallstown grew to nearly twice its size of thirty years earlier. By 1877, the population had expanded to nearly 75 people. The services of a post office, school, three churches, and three stores enabled the residents to maintain a certain degree of self-sufficiency. In addition to the residential and commercial structures that were located along the turnpike, there were several houses accessed by unimproved roads. On the north side of Church Lane were five residents; H. Hershrader, H. Klohr, H. Davis, N. Cross, and G. Walters.(5)

In the last quarter of the 19th century the roads around Randallstown were slated for improvement to meet the town's growing population. In 1880, Randallstown had a population of 100. The population grew by an additional 50 people over the next year. In 1915, on the north side of Church Lane were residents G. Word, Harvey, H. Davis, and H. Klohr (the last two were shown on the 1850 map). Also denoted was the Mt. Olivet Church at the intersection of Old Court Road and Church Lane. However, the town only grew in residential status, it did not grow as a commercial center until the turn of the 20th century.(6) Randallstown is now a suburb of the City of Baltimore.

The large population of African Americans in Randallstown is evident by the many African-American churches located in the

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No BA-3048

Name Church Lane African American Survey District

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

town. These churches include Union Bethel Church, Colonial Baptist Church, New Antioch Baptist Church, Victory in Jesus Baptist Church, Agape Christian Fellowship Church, Church of Christ at Deer Park, Covenant Living Fellowship Church, Faith Christian Fellowship Church, Mt. Sinai Temple, and New Imani Community Church. The oldest established African-American church in Randallstown is Union Bethel A.M.E. Church, established in 1826.

The first Union Bethel Church, called Good Hope Church, was a log building on the northeast side of Liberty Road and Old Court Road. Approximately forty free blacks belonged to this parish in its early years. A few of the families in this parish were Cox, Davis, Johnson, Norris, Parrish, and Young.(7) The churches first parsonage was acquired in 1984 located at 3645 Campfield Road. Due to the growing membership, Union Bethel A.M.E. Church was relocated in 1992 to 8615 Church Lane. The building it uses originally was constructed in the 1970s as a synagogue. Union Bethel Church uses the log church building on Liberty Road to house its ministries and church activities.(8)

The 1930 U.S. Census indicates a mixture of white and black people lived on Church Lane. A few of the African Americans listed were John Cross, Wayman Norris, Marshall Norris, and Howard Norris, all from Maryland. Marshall Norris was the only resident of the four listed that rented his residence for fifteen dollars a month. The remaining three men owned their properties, which ranged in value from \$1,200, \$1,500, and \$5,000. Two of these residents worked as a stone mason, one was a gardener, and the fourth was a building laborer. Wayman Norris listed the most people living in his house on Church Lane with a total of eight (which includes one boarder).(9)

Public education for African-American children in the area beginning during the late 19th century was provided at the St. Thomas Lodge, located behind the Good Hope Church on Liberty Road. The St. Thomas Lodge, built in 1896, was in use as a school facility up to the mid-20th century and then demolished in 1990. A second African-American school, called Rockdale School that no longer extant was located on Church Road. The Rockdale School was a one-room school that serviced children in Randallstown as well as children from Granite.(10)

ENDNOTES

1. Louis Diggs, *Surviving in America: Histories of 7 Black Communities in Baltimore County Maryland*. (Uptown Press, 2002), p. 52.
2. William Hollifield, *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County* (Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978), p. 28.
3. Hollifield, p. 28.
4. J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).
5. *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).
6. 1915 *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*, 20-21; see also Thomas J. Scharf, *History of the City and County of Baltimore from the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881), pp. 830-831.
7. Diggs, p. 21.
8. Diggs, p. 23.
9. U.S. Bureau of the Census. *The Census of 1930, Baltimore County, Maryland*. National Archives.
10. Diggs, p. 45.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No BA-3048

Name Church Lane African American Survey District

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

PROPERTY OWNERS AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2002

8908 Church Lane Map 77 Parcel 255	Patricia Sumpter and Eric M. Waddell -- tax id # 2300008503 8908 Church Lane Liber 14673 Folio 37
8904 Church Lane Map 77 Parcel 611	Michael P. Evans -- tax id # 1900013072 8904 Church Lane Liber 12695 Folio 750
8812 Church Lane Map 77 Parcel 279	Ralph L. Brown and Loretta Edwards-Brown -- tax id # 1900003856 8812 Church Lane Liber 16934 Folio 476
8808 Church Lane Map 77 Parcel 280	James L. and Marie C. McNaney -- tax id # 2100014875 2445 Joppa Road York, PA 17403 Liber 13276 Folio 315
8730 Church Lane Map 77 Parcel 285	James L. and Marie C. McNaney -- tax id # 0216350250 2445 Joppa Road York, PA 17403 Liber 13102 Folio 432
8728 Church Lane Map 77 Parcel 286	Rosslyn Burgess -- tax id # 0219000040 8728 Church Lane Liber 11949 Folio 24
8722 Church Lane Map 77 Parcel 290	Javed A. Aizaz -- tax id # 0204000010 6120 Baltimore National Pike Baltimore, MD 21228 Liber 12126 Folio 661
8714 Church Lane Map 77 Parcel 596	Maxine Fletcher -- tax id # 1700005500 8714 Church Lane Liber 12033 Folio 74
8708 Church Lane Map 77 Parcel 238	Elmer G. and Lillian M. Dorsey -- tax id # 0204500174 8708 Church Lane Liber not given
8704 Church Lane Map 77 Parcel 296	Wesley T. Farchion -- tax id # 0204500130 8704 Church Lane Liber 10518 Folio 389

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No BA-3048

Name Church Lane African American Survey District

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

8702 Church Lane
Map 77 Parcel 297

Melvin Goggans, Jr. and Mary E. Goggans -- tax id # 0207471550
8702 Church Lane
Liber 4263 Folio 443

8615 Church Lane
Map 77 Parcel 313

Union Bethel AME Church of Randallstown -- tax id # 0201540220
8615 Church Lane
Liber 9183 Folio 243

8613 Church Lane
Map 77 Parcel 310

Michael and Kathleen J. Digrazia -- tax id # 0223000610
8613 Church Lane
Liber 7165 Folio 325

8611 Church Lane
Map 77 Parcel 356

Robert Adam and Jillian Rhoades -- tax id # 1700013698
8611 Church Lane
Liber 15529 Folio 703

8607 Church Lane
Map 77 Parcel 355

William H. and Ruth I. H. Wells -- tax id # 1700013697
8607 Church Lane
Liber 8269 Folio 113

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-3048

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 7 acres

Acreage of historical setting unknown

Quadrangle name Ellicott City, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The sixteen properties listed are located along Church Lane in Randallstown in the Second District of Baltimore County. They have historically been associated with tax map 77 since their construction.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristie Baynard, Architectural Historian

organization E.H.T. Traceries

date 11/1/02

street and number 1121 Fifth Street, NW

telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3048

Name Church Lane African American Survey District

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Bowler, Mike. Sowing the seeds of integration. The Sunday Sun. Baltimore: April 13, 1997.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Diggs, Louis S. Surviving in America: Histories of 7 Black Communities in Baltimore County Maryland. Uptown Press, 2002.

Erlandson, Robert A. Residents of tiny Cowdensville seek to preserve historic black community. The Sun. Baltimore: September 23, 1991.

James, Ellen L. Enclave Residents Facing Problems of Long Neglect, Housing and Survival. The Evening Sun: Baltimore, October 24, 1977.

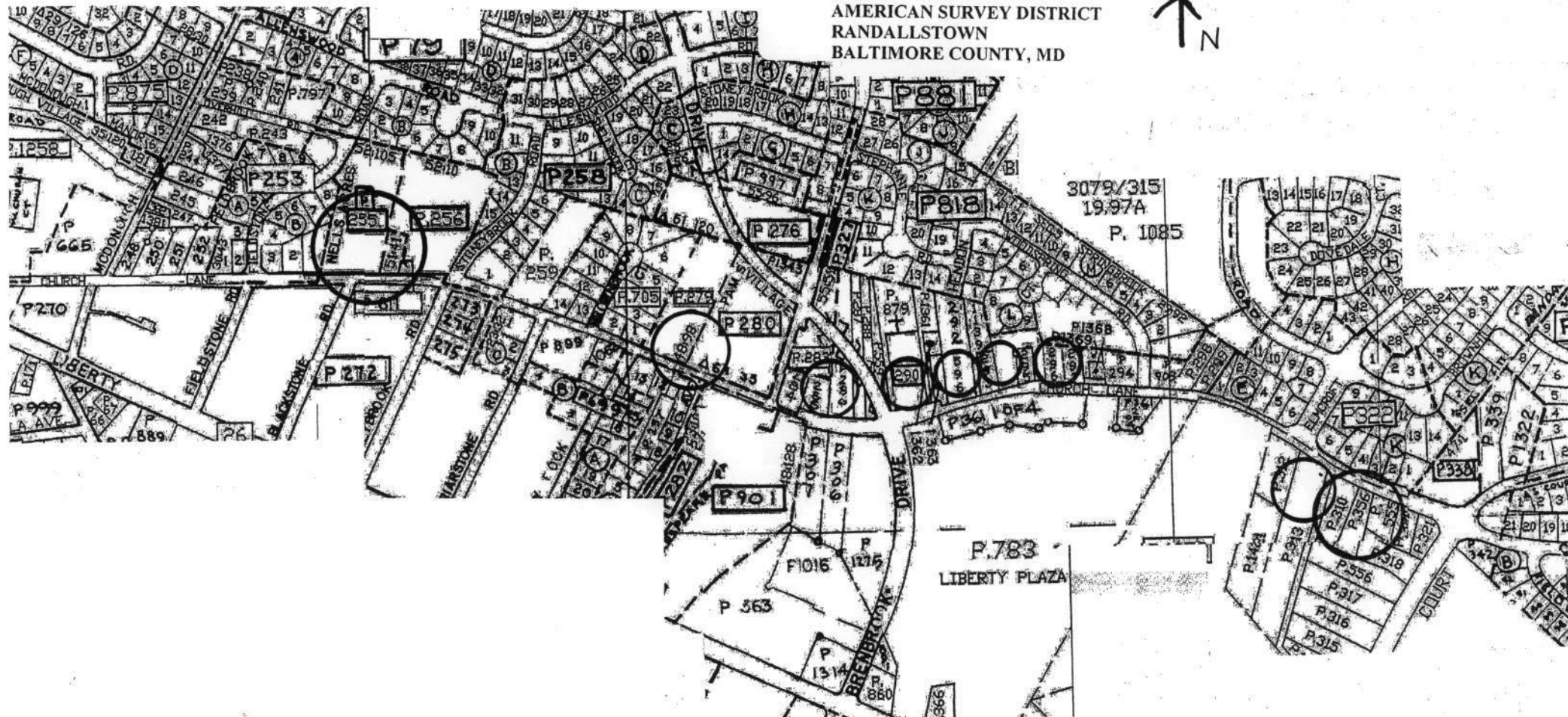
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. The Census of 1930, Baltimore County, Maryland. National Archives.

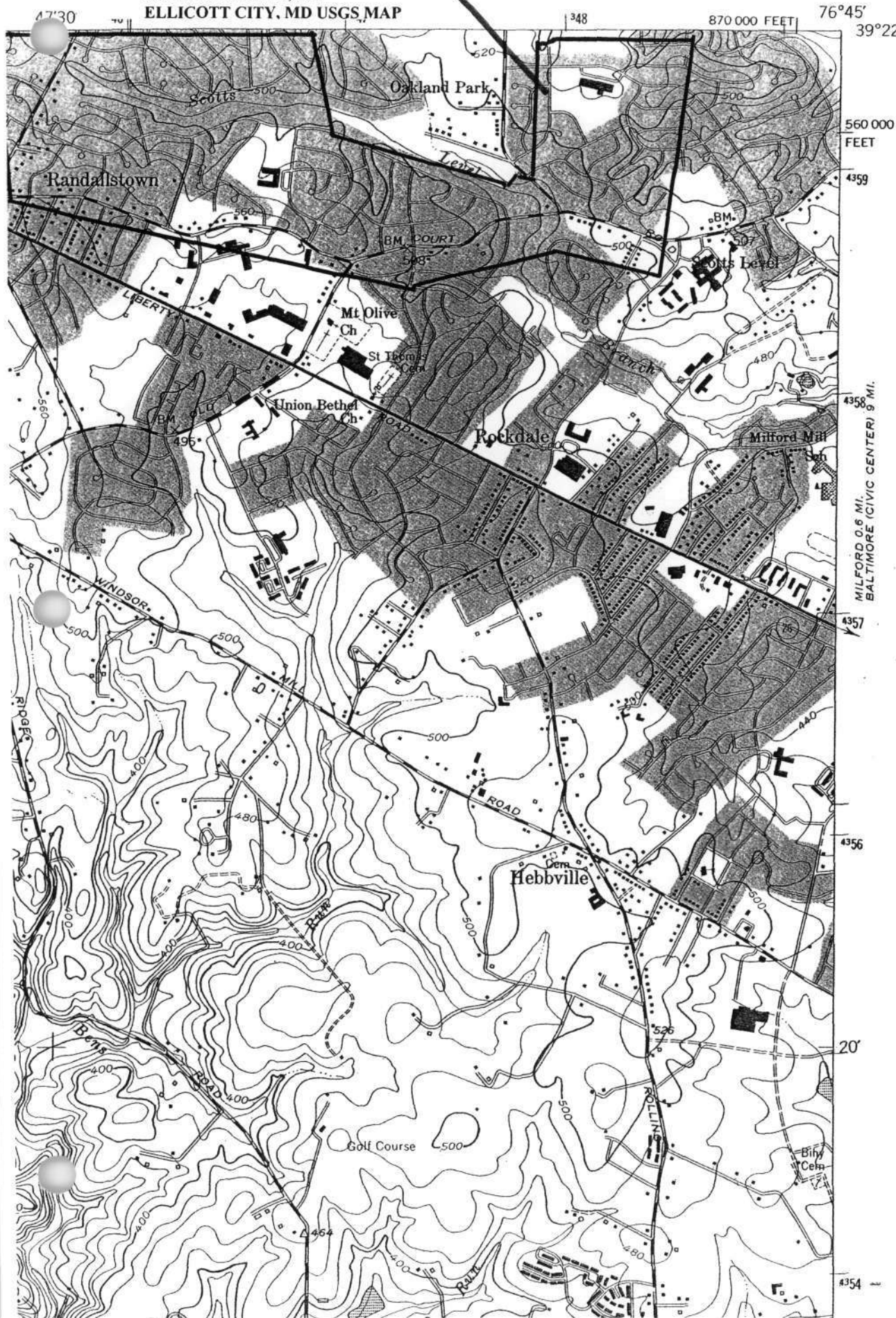
BA-3048
CHURCH LANE AFRICAN
AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT
RANDALLSTOWN
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD



BA-3048
CHURCH LANE AFRICAN
AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT
RANDALLSTOWN, MD
ELLICOTT CITY, MD USGS MAP

ELLICOTT CITY QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

56621 NW
(COCKEYSVILLE)





BA-3648

CHURCH LANE AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

11/2002

MD SHPO

8906-8902 Church Lane, view looking NE

1 of 4



BA-3048

CHURCH LANE AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT

Baltimore County, MD

Traceries

11/2002

MD SHPO

8730-8722 Church Lane, view looking NE

2 of 4



BA-3048

CHURCH LANE AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

11/2002

MD SHPD

8613 Church Lane, view looking south

3 of 4



BA-3048

CHURCH LANE AFRICAN AMERICAN SURVEY DISTRICT

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

11/2002

MD SHPO

3802-3808 McDonogh Road, view looking NW

4 of 4