

Jim Kelly
410-949-6958

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-2628
Sherwood House
2002 Cromwell Bridge Road
Towson, Baltimore County
1936
Public

The Sherwood House is a rare example of a high-style Colonial Revival house in a rural environment, however the house features common stone construction techniques seen throughout the county. The Sherwood House was built in 1936 by Donald Henry Sherwood (1898-1989) by the architects Palmer and Landen in Baltimore. Donald Sherwood, husband to Francis Wellington Sherwood, worked for his brother-in-law Arthur Gregg Wellington. Wellington was the President and Founder of the Maryland Car Wheel Company, a manufacturer of railroad car wheels. Much of the company's supply was sold to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. On January 3, 1994, the farm was sold to Baltimore County.

Facing southeast, the random-rubble stone Sherwood House is comprised of a tripartite façade with a main block and two smaller wings on the side elevations. The rear ell of the house connects to a three-car garage creating a canopied space between the two buildings. The main block of the residence is two stories high, five bays wide with a central entrance, and is capped with a side-gable roof sheathed with wood shingles. This section of the house has two interior-end corbeled brick chimneys constructed in a five-course American brick bond. The two wings are three bays wide and one-and-a-half stories high, each with three shed-roof dormers. Each of these wings is topped with a gambrel roof covered with wood shingles. The west wing has a large exterior-end stone and brick chimney with a corbeled top. The shoulders of the chimney and the shaft are constructed of brick. An interior-end corbeled brick chimney rises above the roof of the east (service) wing. The rear ell, six bays deep, is capped with a gambrel roof sheathed with wood shingles and features a louvered cupola in the center.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2628

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Sherwood House

other

2. Location

street and number 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road not for publication

city, town Towson vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name Baltimore County

street and number Old Court House telephone Not Available

city, town Towson state MD zip code 21204

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 71/733

city, town Towson liber 10320 folio 246

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	6	
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic		
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	6	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:		
		County Park Offices		1
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2628

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

Built in 1935, the Sherwood House is sited approximately a half mile back from the road amidst a rolling rural landscape. The property is now part of Cromwell Valley Park owned and operated by Baltimore County. The Sherwood House is surrounded by trees, shrubs, foundation plantings, gardens, and landscaping. A curvilinear circular paved driveway leads from the road around to the rear of the house. Associated directly with the house is a three-car garage and a smokehouse. To the east of the main house is a caretakers residence, an apple shed, barn, and a drive-thru barn.

EXTERIOR

Facing southeast, the random-rubble stone Sherwood House is comprised of a tripartite façade with a main block and two smaller wings on the side elevations. The rear ell of the house connects to a three-car garage creating a canopied space between the two buildings. The main block of the residence is two stories high, five bays wide with a central entrance, and is capped with a side-gable roof sheathed with wood shingles. The wood cornice is comprised of a fascia, fillet, ovolo, several fillets and fascias, terminating in a boltel. This section of the house has two interior-end corbeled brick chimneys constructed in a five-course American brick bond.

The two wings are three bays wide and one-and-a-half stories high, each with three shed-roof dormers. Each of these wings is topped with a gambrel roof covered with wood shingles. The service wing on the northeast elevation is architecturally depicted as the servants area by several details differing from the opposite wing and the main block. It is set back further than the opposite wing and the windows contain less panes than the main part of the house; 8/12 versus 12/12 windows. The west wing has a large exterior-end stone and brick chimney with a corbeled top. The shoulders of the chimney and the shaft are constructed of brick. An interior-end corbeled brick chimney rises above the roof of the east (service) wing. The rear ell, six bays deep, is capped with a gambrel roof sheathed with wood shingles and features a louvered cupola in the center.

The main block basement story of the Sherwood House is illuminated with two 8-light wood casement windows. The first story is pierced with four 12/12 wood-sash windows. The entry into the main block via a single-leaf 16-light and cross-panel door is detailed with an elaborate Colonial Revival-style surround. The paneled door reveal is flanked by Doric pilasters which support a heavily molded pediment. The pilasters stand on a high paneled plinth and the capitals consist of several filets, an ogee, and a plain frieze. The frieze and architrave consist of a large torus, quarter round, cant, and a cavetto. The second story of the main block is pierced with two 8/12 and three 4/6 wood-sash windows and are paired with louvered wood shutters.

The first story of the west wing is pierced with two 12/12 wood-sash windows and each dormer contains an 8/12 wood-sash window. The central entry in this block contains a single-leaf 12-light and cross-panel door with full-length paneled shutters. The servant's wing to the east is illuminated with three 8/8 wood-sash windows on the first story and three 8/12 dormer windows. The windows throughout the entire house are visually supported with rounded rowlock brick sills.

The northeast elevation of the main block is pierced with two 9/9 windows on the first story and two 6/9 windows on the second story. The first story of the service wing is illuminated with three 8/8 windows and contains one 4-light and cross-panel door into the flat-roof porch. The second story of this wing has one 6-light wood casement window. The northeast elevation of the rear ell is constructed of five-course American brick bond. The north corner has a rounded edge. The garage contains three roll-up wood doors and each bay is separated by rounded brick pilasters. The upper story of the rear ell contains six 6/6 shed-roof dormers clad with wood shingles.

The northwest elevation of the main block mimicks the front elevation. The only differences include a pedimented portico covering the central door and the five 8/12 windows on the second story. The portico is supported with Tuscan columns and Doric pilasters on paneled plinths. It is very similar to the door surround on the southeast elevation except that the plain frieze is flush.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2628

Name Sherwood House
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

The rear elevation of the west wing replicates the front elevation except there is no center entry, instead it has a 12/12 window. Visible on the rear elevation of the service wing is one 8/12 window on the first story. A single-leaf 12-light/cross-panel segmental-arch door provides access into the rear ell into the service wing. Opposite this door is a single-leaf raised-paneled door leading into the garage of the rear ell. The canopied section of the rear ell between the house and the garage exhibits exposed ceiling joists. These joists feature a molding profile of an ovolo, cyma reversa, several fillets, terminating with an ovolo molding. The northwest elevation of the rear ell has a centered 3-light wood casement window with a 9-light and 1-panel door centered above. A set of stone steps lead from the parking area of the garage to the upper entrance on the rear ell.

The southwest elevation of the main block exhibits one 12/12 window on the first story and one 8/12 window on the second story. The first story of the rear ell is pierced with four 4-light wood casement windows and the upper story features five shed-roof dormers, each with one 6/6 window.

INTERIOR

The main block of the Sherwood House is composed of three distinct spaces: rear entrance hall, dining room, and library. The west wing was built as a living room and the service wing on the east has the kitchen, butler's pantry, pantry, and entrance hall. The dining room is the larger of the two front rooms. The west wing has changed its function to accommodate the park administrative activities, now serving as a meeting space.

The dining room has an exterior entry, an eight raised-panel door to the rear entrance hall and a flush door to the butler's pantry. The walls are covered with original papered lath-and-plaster. The ceilings are painted lath-and-plaster and feature a plaster medallion centered around the lighting fixture. The medallion consists of a Greek key ornament and acanthus leaves. The fireplace is detailed with a marble hearth and the mantle is ornamented with Doric pilasters the full height of the wall. The surround replicates the door surround on the façade. The crown molding is heavily molded, featuring a cyma recta, fillet, ovolo, several fillets, cavetto, and a torus. This room is detailed with raised panel wainscoting to the dado level. The inset windows also feature raised paneled reveals. Eight inches in height, the baseboard consists of a base molding profile with a cyma recta, cant, cavetto, and an astragal. The window and door casings are five inches wide and follow a profile of a fillet, cyma reversa, fillet, sunken fillet, cyma reversa, fillet, and an astragal molding. The front door has a brass knob and brass lock box. The windows flanking the fireplace are inset two feet five inches. The hearth measures four feet four inches across. The 2 ¼ inch wood floors have replaced the original floorboards.

The library, southwest of the dining room, contains full-height wainscoting, paneled window reveals, shelves, and paneled cabinets with H and L hinges. This is the only room in the house with a brush plastered ceiling. The interior door is similar to the dining room interior paneled door. The crown molding features a cyma recta, cavetto, fillet, a double cyma recta, terminating in a cavetto molding. The heavily molded fireplace mantle shelf consists of a molding profile with a torus, cyma recta, fillet, cyma recta, ending with several fillet moldings. The fireplace surround consists of an ovolo, fillet, cyma reversa, fillet, beak, fillet, scotia, half round, cyma reversa, fillet, terminating in an torus molding. The marble hearth measures 4 feet 8 inches wide.

The rear entrance hall has a dog-leg stair and two arched passageways to the living room and the butler's pantry. Both passageways have full-height wainscoting on the walls and the ceiling. The passageways contain single-leaf doors to the coat closet, bathroom, closet, and straight-flight stair to the basement. The exterior door to the rear hall has four raised panels over a cross-braced panel and is operated with a brass knob and lock box. The door casings exhibited in the rear hall are similar to the living room. Supported with a square newel post and turned balusters, the closed-stringer stair in the hall leads to the second floor. The newel post is topped with a molded cap and the stringer features flush paneling. The walls and ceiling are painted lath-and-plaster and

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2628

Name Sherwood House
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

the baseboard is similar to the dining room. The inset windows have small molding profiles consisting of an ovolo, several fillets, a sunken fillet, ending in an astragal molding. The chair rail around the perimeter of the room, measuring 3 inches high and 2 ½ inches deep, has a profile consisting of a cant, torus, cavetto, ending in an ovolo molding. The crown molding consists of a cyma reversa, ovolo, sunken fillet, cavetto, sunken fillet, torus, and a quarter round molding. The floors are random-width floorboards measuring 5 to 7 inches wide.

The living room features a large inset fireplace, full-height wainscotting, an exterior door, and inset windows. The wainscotting features raised paneling on the northeast and southwest walls. The front and rear walls feature grooved vertical board wainscotting. The exposed ceiling joists are molded and the ceiling appears to have been dropped. The crown molding, exhibited on the side walls, consists of a cavetto, ovolo, fillets, torus, several fillets, cavetto, terminating with a large torus molding. The fireplace, raised on a brick hearth, is inset 2 feet 7 inches, stands at a height of 4 feet with a width of 8 feet 4 inches. Details of the fireplace include a curvilinear back built with running headers and a marble hearth. Above the opening is a double row of dentils alternately painted red and black. The floors are similar to the random-width floors in the rear hall.

The butler's pantry has the same replacement floor as the living room, the walls are papered lath-and-plaster, and the ceiling is painted lath-and-plaster. The original baseboard rises 3 ½ inches and has a cant base molding and a shoe molding. Window casings consist of a fillet, ovolo, fillets, fascia, and an astragal molding profile. The flush swinging doors have rounded flush casings. Several of the walls are lined with original cabinets.

Much of the same details found in the butler's pantry are exhibited in the kitchen and small pantry. These details include floors, walls, ceiling, casings, and cabinetry. The baseboard rises 7 inches high with a torus base molding and a shoe molding. The rear hall features a winder stair to the second-floor servant's quarters. The original floor is covered with carpet and the dropped ceiling is covered with drywall. The walls are lath-and-plaster and the baseboard is similar to the small pantry. The window casing consists of a ovolo, several fillets, and a torus molding. The closed-stringer stair is supported with a round post with a ball-shaped cap and square balusters.

A total of eight bedrooms, seven bathrooms, and three dressing rooms, and twelve separate closets are located on the second floor. The main bedroom suite contains a dressing room, a bathroom, and a vaulted bedroom with a fireplace. Many of the same details are exhibited on the second floor as on the first floor, especially in delineating the servant's quarters. The only other fireplace on the second floor exists in the northernmost bedroom. The servant's quarters are much smaller, lack heated rooms, and the details are minimal compared to the owner's quarters.

The basement is accessed through a door within one of the small passageways on the first floor. The area containing the straight-flight stair is covered with lath-and-plaster. The basement is not finished. It has a concrete floor and the ceiling joists remain exposed.

SECONDARY RESOURCES

Contemporary to the main house is a square-shaped smokehouse of random-rubble stone construction. This building is capped with a pyramidal roof sheathed with wood shingles and a corbeled brick cornice. A single-leaf entry containing a vertical-board door is centered on the northeast elevation. A random-rubble stone garden wall with rounded brick coping extends from the house to the smokehouse and past the garage to the northeast.

Northeast of the Sherwood House is a cluster of buildings including the caretakers cottage, barn, drive-thru barn, and an apple shed. The caretaker's cottage, circa 1940, is one-and-a-half stories high, and three bays wide. The wood-frame structural system

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2628

Name Sherwood House

Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 3

is supported with a random-rubble stone foundation. Rising above the side-gable roof sheathed with wood shingles is one interior-center corbeled brick chimney and three gable-roof dormers. Recently renovated, the original cladding is covered with vinyl German siding and the original windows have been replaced with vinyl 6/6 windows.

The wood-frame bank barn, circa 1910, is one-and-a-half stories and three bays wide capped with a side-gable roof. Resting on a solid random-rubble stone foundation this barn is clad with a vertical board siding. The center drive-thru barn is one-story high and three bays wide covered with a front-gable roof. This building is clad with vertical board siding. Constructed circa 1940, the wood-frame apple shed is clad with vertical board siding, features sliding vertical board doors, and the foundation is not visible.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2628

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

Specific dates	1934, 1994	Architect/Builder	Palmer and Landen
Construction dates	1934-1935		

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.)

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The Sherwood House is significant as an excellent example of a Colonial Revival-style house in Baltimore County. The Sherwood House is a rare example of a high-style Colonial Revival house in a rural environment, however the house features common stone construction techniques seen throughout the county.

HISTORY

The Sherwood House is sited back from Cromwell Bridge Road northeast of Lutherville in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. The Ninth District joins Baltimore City on the north and is bounded on the east by the Eleventh and Twelfth Districts, and on the north by the Eighth District, and on the west by the Third District. In 1877, the Ninth District was considered the richest and most populous.(1) The Northern Central Railroad extends through the entire western side of the district. The conduit line from Gunpowder Falls to Baltimore City traverses through the Ninth District.

The Sherwood House was built in 1936 by Donald Henry Sherwood (1898-1989) by the architects Palmer and Landen in Baltimore. This Colonial Revival-style house was constructed for a approximately \$37,000 and contains a total of twenty-seven rooms. The house measures 108 feet by 94 feet.

As an outgrowth of nationwide pride brought about by the American Centennial Celebrations of 1876, the Colonial Revival style appeared in the latter part of the 19th century. The style drew upon many of the defining characteristics of the historic Colonial, Georgian, and Federal styles, such as accentuated main entries, symmetrically balanced facades, double-hung windows, side-gable roofs, exterior-end chimneys, and classical detailing, all of which can be found in the Sherwood House. Copying much from these earlier building styles, the new Colonial Revival structures were larger overall and often 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. However, as evidenced by the house at 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road, the defining high-style characteristic features were still employed. For example, the main block of the house consists of five symmetrically balanced bays as well as two side wings. The centrally placed entrance on the façade is accentuated with a classical surround. The double-hung sash windows with 12/12 lights, the interior-end chimneys, the side-gable roof on the main block, and gambrel roofs on the one-and-half-story wings make a direct reference to the earlier Colonial styles. The Colonial Revival details are also evident on the interior of the house. Such details include classical fireplace surrounds, wainscotting, paneled reveals, and a plaster medallion.

Donald Sherwood, married to Francis Wellington Sherwood, worked for his wife's brother Arthur Gregg Wellington. Wellington

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No BA-2628

Name Sherwood House

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

was the President and Founder of the Maryland Car Wheel Company, a manufacturer of railroad car wheels. Much of the company's supply was sold to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Following World War II (1940-1945), Sherwood liquidated the Maryland Car Wheel Company and became the majority stockholder of the Ellicott Machine Company.(2) Still active, this company produces dredges and dredge machinery used worldwide. After her husband's death, Francis Sherwood, placed approximately 99 acres of her estate in a conservation easement with the Maryland Environmental Trust. On January 3, 1994, the 102-acre farm was sold to Baltimore County.

ENDNOTES

1. John McGrain. Cromwell Bridge Valley: Historic Background, Baltimore County Planning Office: August 3, 1993, p. 3.
2. Pamphlet on Sherwood House History available at the Sherwood House.

CHAIN OF TITLE

- October 9, 1934 Eben D. Finney to Frances W. Sherwood
Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber CWB 940 Folio 296
- April 22, 1941 Frank M. Dunkes, Jr. et al to Frances W. Sherwood
Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber CWB 1156 Folio 204
- January 30, 1943 Eben D. Funney to Frances W. Sherwood
Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber RJB 1273 Folio 504
- April 29, 1981 Charles F. Eck, Jr. to Frances W. Sherwood
Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber EHK, Jr. 6283 Folio 145
- February 2, 1994 Estate of Frances W. Sherwood to Baltimore County.
Baltimore County Courthouse
Liber 10320 Folio 246

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2628

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 102 acresAcreage of historical setting 102 acresQuadrangle name Towson, MDQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Sherwood House, at 2000 Cromwell Bridge Road near Towson is in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with tax map 71 parcel 733 since its construction.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristie Baynard, Architectural Historianorganization E.H.T. Traceries, Inc.date 3/24/03street and number 1121 Fifth Street, NWtelephone 202-393-1199city or town Washingtonstate 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

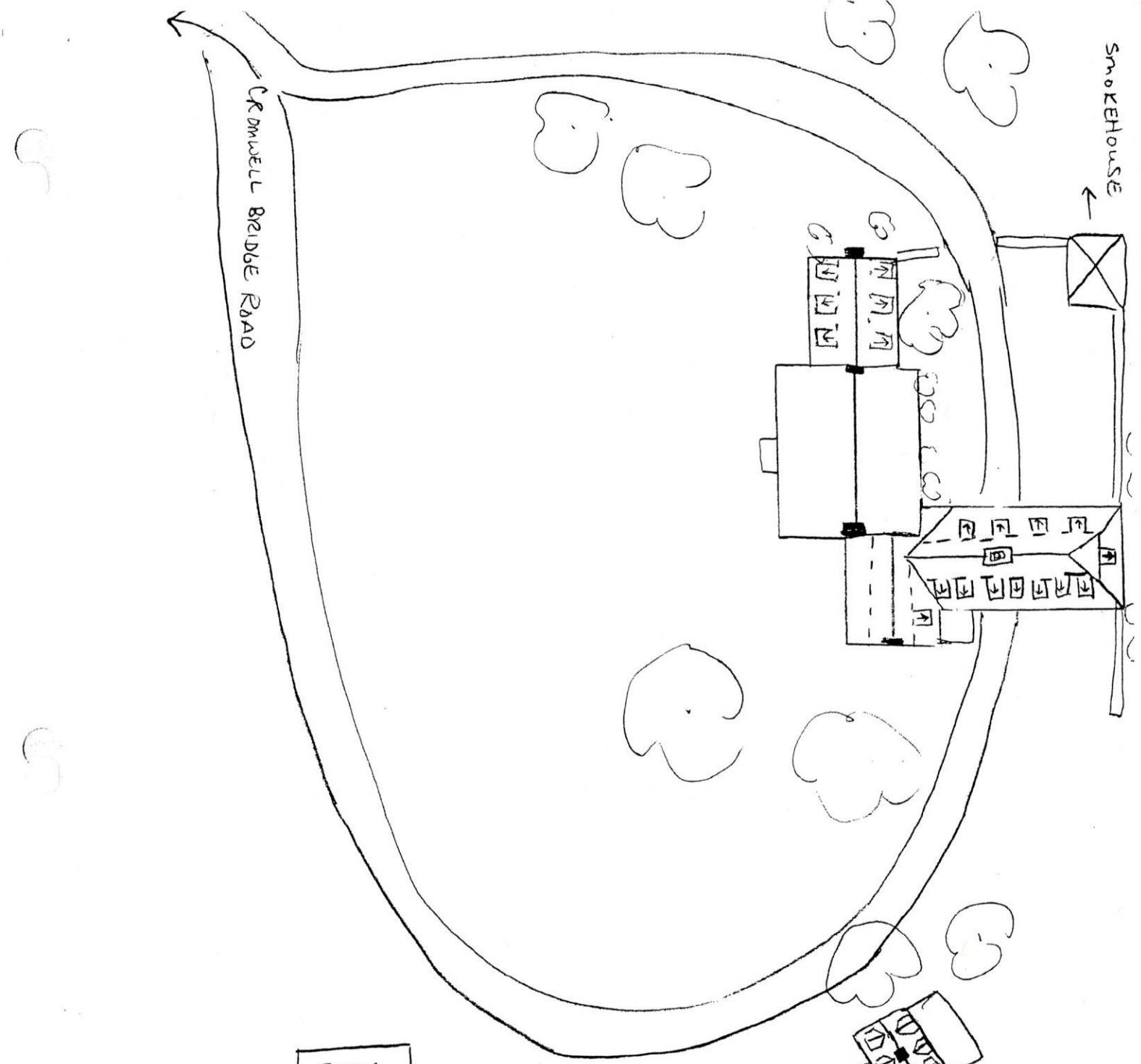
Inventory No. BA-2628

Name Sherwood House

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
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.



SMOKEHOUSE

CROMWELL BRIDGE ROAD

BA-2628
 Sherwood House
 2002 Cromwell Bridge Road
 Towson, Baltimore County
 Sketch Resource Map



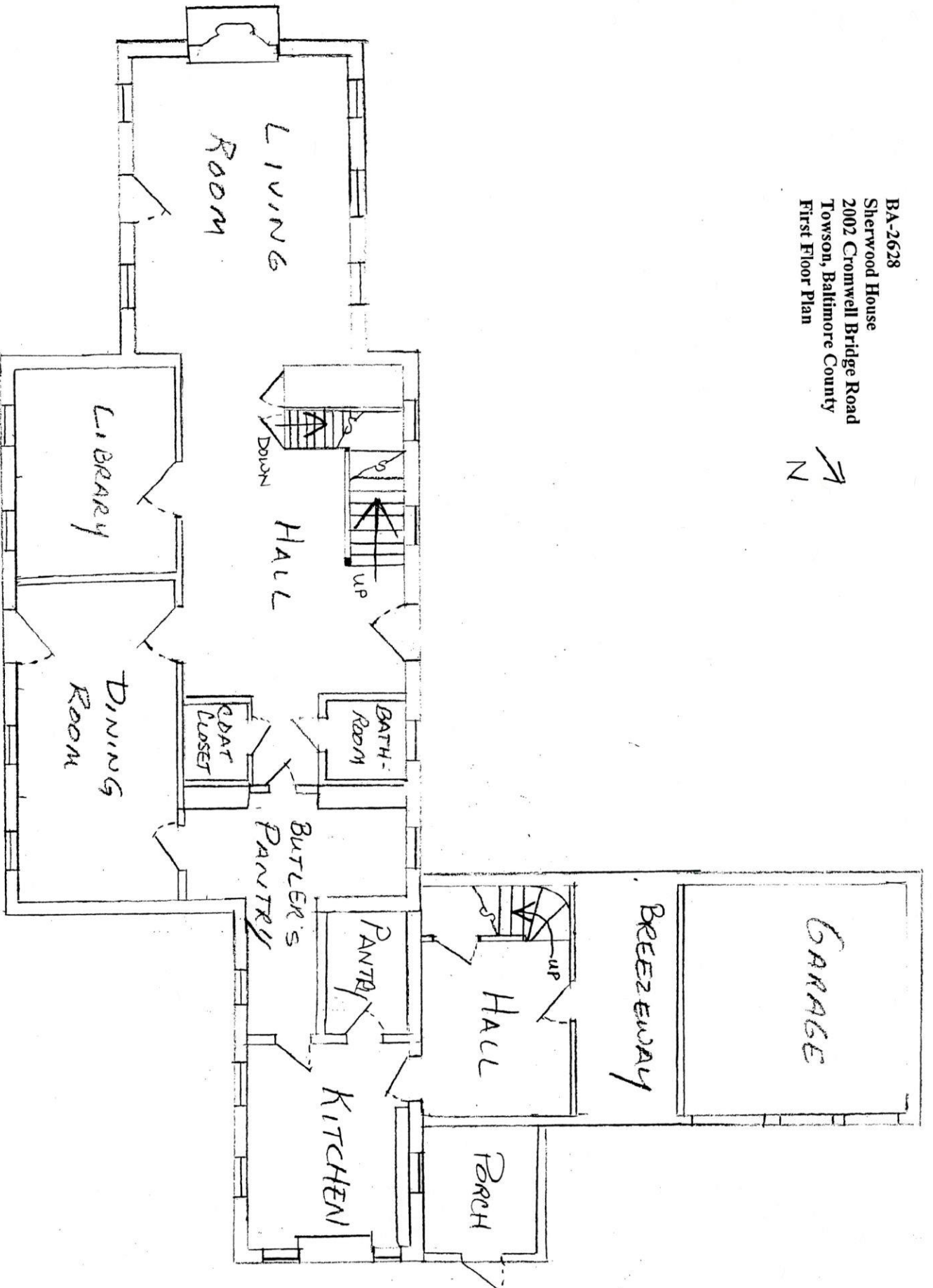
CARTWHEELERS
 COTTAGE

BANK BARN
 STABLE

COBBL
 CRIB
 BARN

APPLE SHEDS

BA-2628
Sherwood House
2002 Cromwell Bridge Road
Towson, Baltimore County
First Floor Plan



BA-2628
Sherwood House
2002 Cromwell Bridge Road
Towson, Baltimore County
Towson, USGS Map

