

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received

MAY 4 1987

date entered

~~JUN 2 1987~~
JUN 4 1987

1. Name

historic Charlton Heights House, Shoppell Design #216

and/or common O'Dea House (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 5804 Ruatan Street N/A not for publication

city, town Berwyn Heights N/A vicinity of Fifth Congressional District

state Maryland code 24 county Prince George's code 033

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

name Mrs. Alice O'Dea

street & number 5804 Ruatan Street

city, town Berwyn Heights N/A vicinity of state Maryland 20740

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Main Street

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of previously listed National Register properties included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions and uses: residential

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

The O'Dea House, built in 1888 from a pattern book design is a two-and-one-half story side-gabled frame Queen Anne style dwelling. Centered in the principal or south facade is a three-story octagonal tower. The main block is three bays by two bays with entrance in the third (eastmost) bay of the south facade. Sheltering the principal facade and following the lines of the projecting tower is a one-story veranda with chamfered posts and geometric openwork brackets. Extending to the north and nearly flush with the east gable end is a two-story hip-roof kitchen wing. The house is distinguished not only by the octagonal tower but by the variety of ornamental surface coverings including scalloped and fish-scale shingles. Ramiform paneling and interior arrangement of rooms centers around an octagonal parlor in the front of the house. Door and window surrounds have multi-band molding and bulls-eye corner blocks. The closed string staircase in the easterly vestibule has a square paneled newel positioned diagonally with applied bulls-eye moldings and turned balusters. There are no outbuildings.

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
<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 1888 **Builder/Architect** Charlton Heights Improvement Company

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criteria: A, C
 Applicable Exceptions: none
 Significance Evaluated: local

SUMMARY SIGNIFICANCE:

The O'Dea House is significant for its association with the development of Berwyn Heights, originally Charlton Heights, in suburban Washington, D. C. and for its architectural character. Beginning in the 1870s, the area northeast of Washington was the scene of active and continuous development as the population of the city increased and railroad suburbs such as Berwyn Heights gradually grew and expanded around it. The O'Dea House is one of the houses erected by the Charlton Heights Improvement Company to spur development of its new community. In typical fashion these company-built houses were often mail order or pattern book houses. The O'Dea House is Design 216 in Shoppell's Artistic Modern Houses of Low Cost published in 1888. The O'Dea House is also important for it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Queen Anne style which was popular in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Most notable of these characteristics are the three story polygonal tower and varied ornamental surface coverings. Few examples of this style in Prince George's County retain the high level of integrity found in the O'Dea House.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See footnotes under Section 8 on Continuation Sheet No. 5

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Washington East, D. C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property consists only of the urban rectangular parcel (Block 24, lots 26 and 27) upon which the house stands. The property measures 100' by 200'.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian

organization	<u>Historic Preservation Commission</u> <u>c/o County Planning, MNCPPC</u>	date	<u>August 1986</u>
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street & number	<u>County Administration Building</u>	telephone	<u>(301) 952-3521</u>
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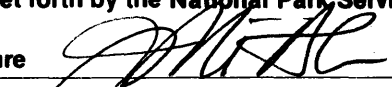
city or town		state	<u>Maryland 20772</u>
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12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local


As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature		date	<u>4-30-87</u>
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title	<u>STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER</u>	date	
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For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

	Keper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register	date	<u>6/4/87</u>
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Attest:		date	
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Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

O'Dea House
Prince George's County, Maryland

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The O'Dea house is a two-and-one-half story side-gabled frame dwelling which incorporates a three-story octagonal tower. It is distinguished by its unusual shape and a variety of ornamental surface coverings. It stands on one of the original lots of the 1888 town of Charlton Heights, now known as Berwyn Heights. The building is Queen Anne in style.

The main block is roughly three bays by two bays (28 by 26 feet) and faces south onto Ruatan Street. Centered and set into the principal south facade is a three-story octagonal tower. Entrance is in the third (eastmost) bay of the main block, through a twelve-paneled door; the screen door is embellished with spindles and the door surround has bulls-eye cornerblocks. Sheltering the principal south facade of the house is a one-story hip-roof semi-circular porch, which follows the lines of the octagonal tower. The porch has chamfered posts with brackets in geometric patterns. The railing is plain, and the porch rests on brick piers with lattice infill.

Siding of the house is plain horizontal board on the first story; the second story is sided with scalloped shingles.

In the east and west gable ends at third level, a shallow pent roof forms a pediment; the tympanum is sided with fish-scale shingles and enclosed two small square twenty-pane windows. Above these, in the apex of each gable end is a triangular space with ramiform or branch-like paneling simulating half-timbering.

Like the main block, the octagonal tower is ornamented with a variety of siding materials: plain horizontal board on the first story, scalloped shingle on the second, and fish-scale shingle on the third. Siding throughout is painted white. the hip roof of the south facade porch forms a division between first and second stories, and a narrow five-section roof forms a division between second and third stories. The third story of the tower is sided with fish-scale shingles. There are three windows in each of the second and third stories of the tower. The tower is surmounted by a pyramidal roof, which is adorned with an acorn-shaped metal finial.

Windows are generally 1/1 double hung sash, and have plain board surrounds and no shutters. The cornice is boxed throughout, with crown molding, and below the cornice is a concave board frieze. On the main block, the second story is slightly flared over the first story, with a prominent crown molding. Centered in the west gable end is a one-story semi-octagonal projecting bay. The roof throughout is covered with gray asbestos shingle. A corbelled brick chimney rises from the south plane of the roof, partly behind the octagonal tower. The building rests on a brick foundation, which encloses a full basement.

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National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

O'Dea House
Prince George's County, Maryland

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

Extending to the north, almost flush with the east gable end, is a two-story hip-roof kitchen wing (approximately 12-1/2 by 15-1/1 feet). A corbelled brick chimney rises from the north (rear) plane of the hip roof. Filling the northwest corner between the main block and the wing is a one-story hip-roof porch, which has been enclosed, and has access from the north.

The interior arrangement is planned around the octagonal parlor in the front (south) of the house. Entrance, through the east bay of this south facade, leads into a vestibule/stairhall, which in turns leads (diagonally into the octagonal parlor through a door which is now closed. Present entrance to the octagonal parlor is through a door in its north wall from the rear (northwest) parlor. The fireplace in the northwest wall of the octagonal parlor has been rebuilt; it backs up to a shared fireplace in the west parlor. The latter fireplace is ornamented with a wooden mantel; large molded brackets support a plain shelf, above which is an over-mantel mirror. Door and window surrounds have multi-band molding and bulls-eye corner blocks. The west parlor has a patterned tin ceiling, installed in the 1940s.

The closed-string staircase rises along the east exterior wall of the vestibule, then turns 90 degrees to the west and rises to the second story. It has a square paneled newel with applied bulls-eye moldings and turned balusters; the newel is positioned diagonally. The staircase has a paneled spandrel, and is ornamented with urn-shaped caps and pendants. It continues to the third story.

The house plan was published in R. W. Shoppell's **Artistic Modern Houses of Low Cost** in 1888. There are no outbuildings.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3 O'Dea House
Prince George's County, Maryland

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Beginning in the 1870s, the area northeast of Washington was the scene of active and continuous development as the population of the Federal City increased and the railroad suburbs gradually grew and expanded around it. Hyattsville was the first major development in Prince George's County, and others, like The Highlands, College Park, Riverdale Park and Central Heights, soon attempted to repeat its success. In 1887, Edward Graves of Washington, D. C. purchased 383 acres south of 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. He 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 improved 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 land and the Charlton Heights Improvement Company ceased operations. In 1896, by an act of the General Assembly, the town was incorporated and its name was changed to Berwyn Heights. It continued to grow, though 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 1950s subdivision housing. Berwyn Heights is a quiet residential community with curving streets and old trees, set back and somewhat secluded, between two major highways.

The O'Dea House was built in 1888 and is one of the houses erected by the Charlton Heights Improvement Company to spur development of the community. Four of the company-built houses, including the O'Dea House, were constructed from designs produced by the Cooperative Building Plan Association in New York City and distributed through the periodical publications of R. W. Shoppell, president of the association. The O'Dea House is Design No. 216 of Shoppell's Artistic Modern Houses of Low Cost published in 1888. The other houses are the Chlopicki House at 5717 Ruatan Street which is also an 1888 Queen Anne style structure (Design No. 449 of Shoppell's Modern Houses published in 1887 with adaptations from Design No. 277 of Artistic Modern Houses); the Gohr House, an 1890 building that stands at 5712 Ruatan Avenue (adopted from Design No. 204 of Shoppell's Modern Houses); and the Kleiner-Dillon House at 5603 Ruatan Street which was also built in 1888 (Design No. 462 of Shoppell's Modern Houses).⁵

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4 O'Dea House
Prince George's County, Maryland

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

The houses are generally modest scaled frame structures with Queen Anne and Victorian design and decorative features. A few similarly designed houses are scattered throughout this section of Berwyn Heights but they have not been confirmed as Shoppell designs and may actually have been influenced by the four Association pattern book houses. Unfortunately, the early houses of the town are not located in a cohesive grouping to form a district. Many also have been extensively renovated. The O'Dea House and the Chlopicki House retain the best integrity of the identified pattern book houses.⁶

Design No. 216, the O'Dea House was described in Artistic Modern Houses of Low Cost as having "fine, large rooms, a well lighted hall and stairway, good closet room, bathroom, back stairway, cellar, and a very attractive and comfortable veranda." The cost of construction was estimated between \$2,325 and \$3,075, depending on local prices of materials and labor.⁷

The first residents of the house are not known. It may have served as a model home for prospective buyers. This particular house was not sold by the company until 1892, when Edward Graves purchased it together with eleven other already-constructed houses. Graves held the property (Lots 26 and 27 in Block 24) until 1907, leasing it for several years to the Alger family. In 1907, he sold the house and two lots on which it stands. It apparently continued as a rental property for another thirty years. Local tradition indicates that during some of these years it served as a dormitory for young women as part of a local social work program.⁸ In 1939, after it had stood vacant for several years, the house was sold to Lawrence and Alice O'Dea, and since that time has been the O'Dea family home. The house is in near original condition, with the only major alterations being the enclosure of the rear porch, and the installation of a patterned tin ceiling in the west parlor.⁹

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5 O'Dea House
Prince George's County, Maryland

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Footnotes:

- 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 of 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 R. W. Shoppell, Building Plans for Modern Low Cost Houses, 1884; Modern Houses, 1887; Modern Houses, 1888; Artistic Modern Houses of Low Cost, 1888; Building Designs, 1889.
- 6 Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission Historic Sites Survey: Berwyn Heights/Charlton Heights Survey District, 1986. County Planning, Upper Marlboro, MD.
- 7 Artistic Modern Houses of Low Cost, by R. W. Shoppell, President of the Cooperative Building Plan Association, Architects, N.Y., 1888, a design #216.
- 8 Prince George's County Deeds #41:407; #42:475; #87:259; 164:28, 32; #421:356, Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1888-1910; Census of Prince George's County, 1900. 1910.
- 9 Prince George's County Deeds #482:8, #521:341. Interview with members of O'Dea family, spring and summer 1986.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received

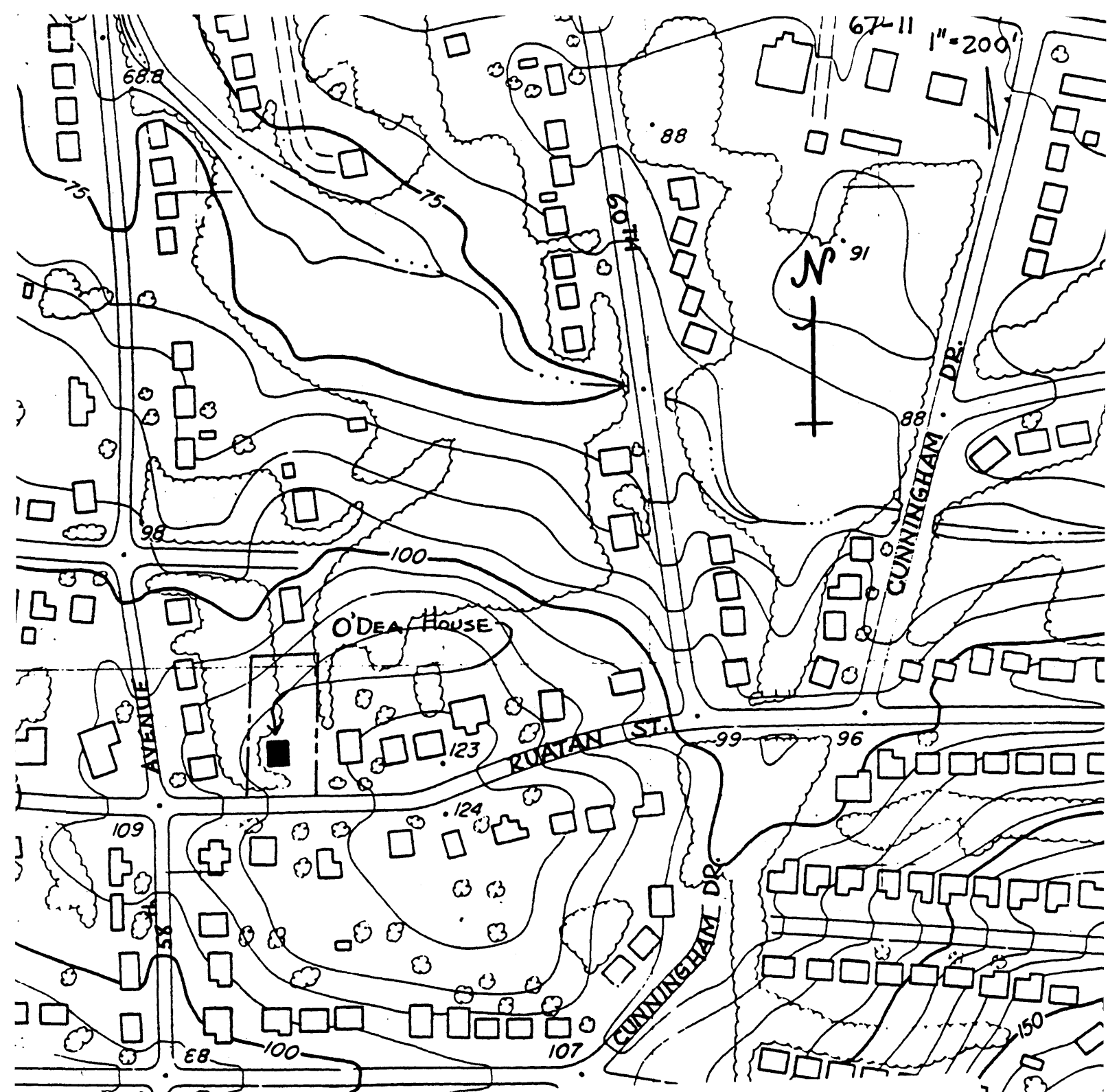
date entered

O'Dea House

Continuation sheet Prince George's County, MD Item number 8 Page 6

CHAIN OF TITLE:

- #521:341
19 April 1939
Deed
Homeowners Loan Corporation to Lawrence and Alice O'Dea for \$3,750, Block 24, Lots 26 and 27 of Berwyn Heights, as per Plat JWB #10:309; same property acquired by #482:8.
- #432:8
8 Sept. 1937
Deed
F. M. Hall to Homeowners Loan Corporation. Block 24, Lots 26 and 27 of Berwyn Heights. (Hall authorized to sell property of Clara R. A. Nelson, who defaulted on mortgage to Homeowners Loan Corporation, #429:117; sold to said Corporation which was high bidder at \$2,000.)
- 429:117
6 Dec. 1934
Mortgage
Clara R. A. Nelson to Homeowners Loan Corporation, Block 24, Lots 26 and 27 of Berwyn Heights, which she acquired by #421:356. Nelson is indebted to Homeowners Loan Corporation \$2,400.
- #421:356
18 Feb. 1922
Deed
Nelson Realty to Clara R. A. Nelson, for \$1,000, Block 24, Lots 26 and 27 in Berwyn Heights, acquired by #164:32.
- #164:32
1 Feb. 1921
Deed
Nelson Wilson of D.C. to Nelson Realty Corporation of Delaware, for \$1,000, Block 24, Lots 26 and 27 of Berwyn Heights, acquired from Siddens and Nesbitt, trustees.
- #164:28
26 Jan. 1921
Deed
Fred L. Siddons and Charles Nesbitt of D.C. to Nelson Wilson of D.C., Block 24, Lots 26 and 27 of Berwyn Heights, acquired by deed of trust #87:259, after default by Clara Nelson.
- #87:259
17 Feb. 1913
Deed of Trust
Clara R. A. Nelson of P.G. to Charles Nesbitt and Fred Siddons of D.C.; Clara Nelson is indebted \$2,000 to Clara Ford Nesbitt, so to secure payment she deeds in trust to Nesbitt and Siddons, Block 24, Lots 26 and 27, and can occupy property until default.
- #42:475
10 April 1908
Deed
Charles and Florence Shephard to Clara R. A. Nelson of D.C., Block 24, Lots 26 and 27 of Berwyn Heights.
- #41:407
30 Nov. 1907
Deed
Edward and Katherine Graves of D.C. to Charles Shephard, Block 24, Lots 26 and 27 of Berwyn Heights as per Plat JWB #10:309.
- JWB #21:225
14 April 1892
Deed
Charlton Heights Improvement Company to Edward Graves; 30 lots (most improved) including Block 24, Lots 26 and 27 in Charlton Heights, for \$40,000.



O'DEA HOUSE

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Prince George's County, Maryland

site plan 1987

1" = 200'

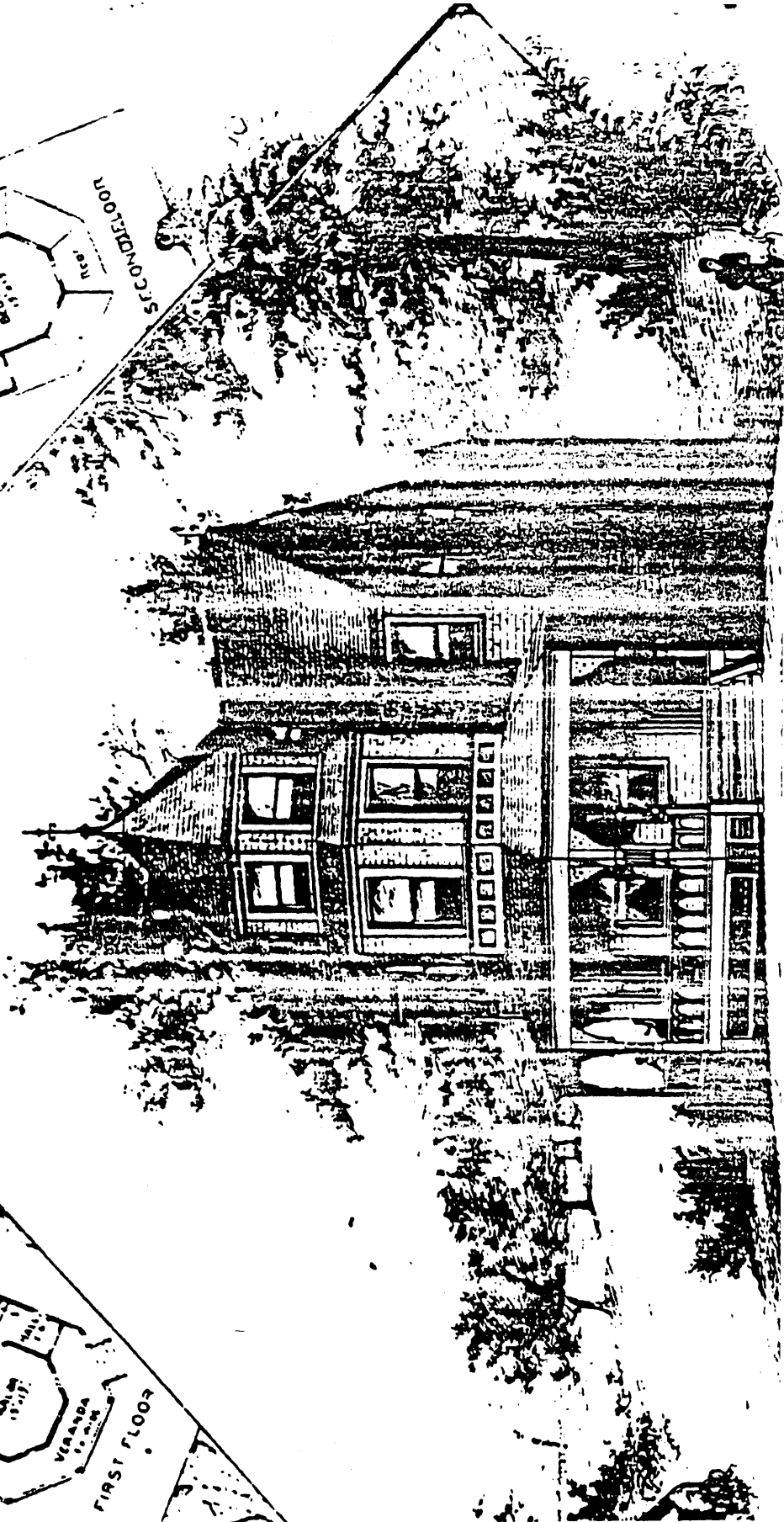
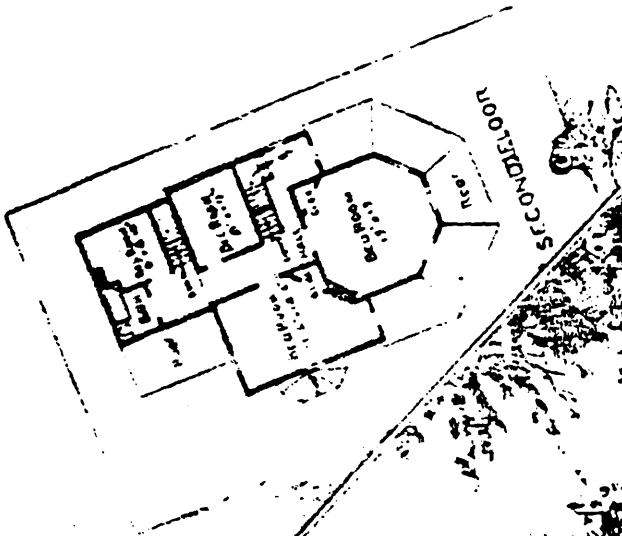
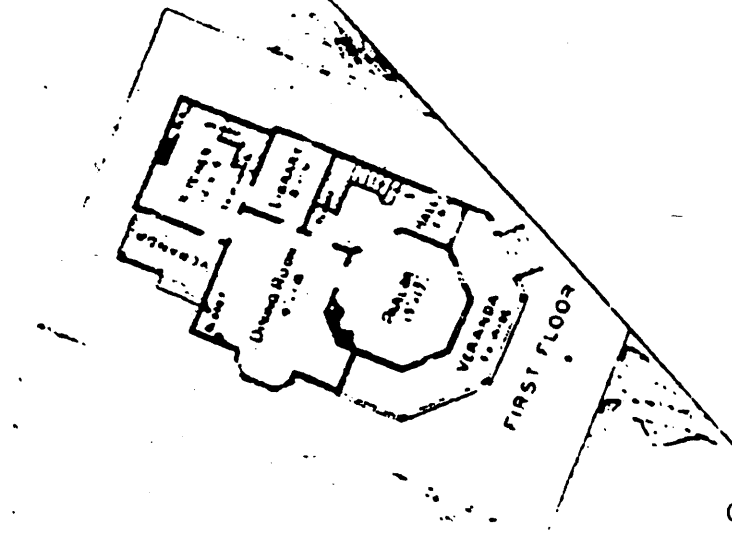
166

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189

ARTISTIC MODERN HOUSES OF LOW COST.

By R. W. SHOPPELL, President of the Co-operative Building Plan Association, Architects, New York.



O'DEA HOUSE

PG: 67-11

Prince George's County, Maryland

Artistic Modern Houses of Low Cost
illustration

