

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 31-3-1

## 1. Name of Property

historic Stubbs House; Shorefield  
other Avon, Shawfield

## 2. Location

street and number 2000 Shorefield Road  not for publication  
city, town Wheaton  vicinity  
county Montgomery

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

name Montgomery County, Maryland, M-NCPPC, Montgomery County Department of Parks  
street and number 8787 Georgia Avenue telephone \*\*\*\*  
city, town Silver Spring state MD zip code 20910

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County, Maryland liber 2650 folio 177  
city, town Wheaton tax map JQ13 tax parcel P953 tax ID number special class 38

## 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 at MHT  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	_____	_____ Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				<u>1</u>	

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. 31-3-1

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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### Description of the Stubbs House

Shorefield, also referred to as the Stubbs Hose and Avon, was built in 1850<sup>1</sup> by William Stubbs who called it Avon. The "Shorefield" name came from the name "Shawfields" given to the property by William Murdock who inherited it in 1772 and sold it to Moses Orme in 1778 whose heirs sold it to Edward Stubbs in 1841. Edward Stubbs' son, William Stubbs, was given a parcel of land in 1844 from his father's larger property after William was married in 1843, but not turned over to him until he had built a house on the property. The extant barn on the farm was constructed in 1843 either by William or his father. The Stubbs family, owners of the property from 1841 to 1935 had links to: Irish Catholic immigration to America in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Irish-American political power of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the U.S. State Department 1828-1861 (during the Mexican-American War), President James Buchanan, The Civil War, the Boyle family of Washington, D.C., the United States Senate and the building of summer homes in Montgomery County by federal workers in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The house and barn are the only buildings remaining from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century community of Mitchell's Crossroads, later absorbed into Wheaton.

### Environs

The house sits on the western edge of Wheaton Regional Park, with the possibility of a separate driveway from Shorefield Road. A paved parking lot for 30 cars is in front of the house. It was purchased by the Parks Department in 1959, together with surrounding property, for Wheaton Regional Park. It was used for many years as headquarters for the Park Police, and later housed the County employees credit union. It has been vacated and boarded up for the past several years. The 1843 Bank Barn is about 100 yards behind the house. A cottage called the Armstrong House lies between them. This cottage, based on a catalog house plan, was built in 1935 by Maude Culver, granddaughter of William Stubbs, on her inherited 33 acres of the original property.<sup>2</sup> These two buildings are not included in this application.

### Exterior

The 2 ½ story house is in the late Federal style.<sup>3</sup> The frame house was covered with brick veneer about 1954. The South-facing front façade is five bays and has a peaked roof. The east side has two bays and two exterior chimneys. The west side has two bays and one internal chimney rising from the middle of the west side roof. The porch on the front façade, originally covering three bays, has been extended to cover all five bays and completely enclosed under the ownership of the Parks Department. Also during the Parks ownership of the building, an enclosed handicap ramp was constructed on the west side of the building. The two-story rear ell, also covered with brick veneer, has a porch along the east side which has been enclosed. A steel fire escape ladder extends two stories behind the handicap ramp.

### Interior

The 4,600 square foot house has 14 rooms and a central grand hallway and staircase. Each of the four large rooms downstairs has a fireplace. The ceilings are 12 feet high. On the second floor there are four bedrooms, each with a fireplace, and a small room at the end of the hall, over the porch. The ceilings are 10 feet high. There is a bathroom at the stairway turning on the second floor. Three smaller bedrooms occupy the third floor. The addition in the rear, with a kitchen downstairs and servants' quarters upstairs, was added about ten years after the house was built.<sup>4</sup> Evidence of the construction of the rear addition in the 1860s can be seen in the pantry off the kitchen. There is a box stairway in the corner of the rear addition for use by the servants who lived there. The fireplaces have been boarded up and the plaster walls downstairs covered with thin veneer paneling.

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<sup>1</sup> Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Sandy Spring, No. 432, April 1, 1850.

<sup>2</sup> The barn and Armstrong house are not part of this application as per request of John Nissel, Deputy Director of Operations, M-NCPPC, Montgomery County Parks. They are included in the description as they are a part of the original property and the narrative of its historicity and the only remaining outbuildings.

<sup>3</sup> Dwyer, Michael J., MHT form #31-3, August 1975.

<sup>4</sup> Family lore claims that the kitchen addition was built after the family moved to the house permanently in 1861 and insurance records back up that claim. Other improvements were probably made to the home at that time as well. The value went from \$1,500 to \$2,500.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 31-3-1

Name Stubbs House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 1

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### Architecture

Architecturally the house typifies the transition from Federal to the more functional and economical Gothic Revival style, so popular in the country homes being built in Montgomery County in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Federal is reflected in the balanced five-bay front façade, the center-passage configuration, the six-over-six windows, the side-lighted front door, and the low roof line. Gothic Revival style can be seen in the block cross gable construction, the three-bay front porch, and the front gable eave trim. The house is unusual for the placement of the chimneys with the east chimney horizontal to the exterior wall and the west chimney perpendicular to the exterior wall. Both chimneys serve two rooms on the first floor and two rooms on the second floor. This was done for functionality, the west chimney being larger as it served the kitchen on one side. Functionality was also the reason for the large rooms and high ceilings, to accommodate a large and growing family.

The brick facing and enclosed front porch and enclosed handicap ramp can be reversed as they are added onto the original structure. The six-over-six windows are original (except the center front second floor window that has been replaced by a door), as is the front door with its side and top lights and low door knob placement, and its square chamfered posts and brackets. Even covered with brick, the house retains its block cross gable construction with the 1860s rear ell addition, boxed corner staircase, and back porch. The fireplaces and plaster walls of the interior lie behind the 1950s veneer paneling. The center stairway is original.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. 31-3-1

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>U.S. Civil War</u>

Specific dates	1841-1959	Architect/Builder
Construction dates	1849-1850	

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

## Statement of Significance

This document demonstrates that the Stubbs House, constructed 1849-1850 by William Stubbs, meets the following criteria of Chapter 24A-3(b) of the Montgomery County Ordinance.

(1)(a) Because it represents the first development of summer retreats in the countryside of Montgomery County by federal government employees in Washington, D.C.; and because the owner and his family had connections with prominent national political figures, many of whom visited the house; and because the family was involved in the prominent and controversial Irish-American politics of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century; and because the farm was the site of a Confederate encampment during General Jubal Early’s raid on Washington July 11-12, 1864.

(1)(d) Because it is the only remaining house representing the once thriving village of Mitchell’s Crossroads on the Washington-Brookeville Turnpike (Georgia Avenue), now absorbed into Wheaton, and the farming community that surrounded it in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

(2)(d) Because it is an example of a large country house, built in 1850, that exhibits the transition from Federal to Gothic Revival architecture. Many anti-bellum houses were remodeled to reflect the Gothic Revival influence of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, but this house was originally built in a blend of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century architectural styles. The changes to the house over time demonstrate the adaptations needed for the house to survive changes in the society and economy, and conversion from private to public use, and most changes can be reversed.

(2)(e) Because it sits on the edge of and at the entrance to Wheaton Regional Park, a large free public park with a playground, carousel, and hiking trails, visited by people from all over the county, and visible both to the public using the park and to residents of the surrounding neighborhood.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 31-3-1

Name Shorefield House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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The story of this property begins with the immigration to the United States of Edward Stubbs, age 20, from Dublin, Ireland in 1807 along with his parents, five siblings, and the family's servant. Edward's father, William Stubbs previously had a Woolen Goods trade in Dublin.<sup>5</sup> The family was Catholic and middle class. Between the Irish Rebellion of 1798 and the repeal of the Penal Laws against those of the Catholic faith in 1829 many well-to-do and middle class Catholics were immigrating to the United States and Canada. One reason for this was that the Act of Union of 1801 had not freed the Catholic population of the Penal Laws as promised and many Catholics were losing hope of ever being able to own land and not paying a tithe to the Anglican Church, or gaining full citizenship. This wave of immigration was before the large influx of mainly poor Irish to America during the Potato Famine of the 1840s and the United States welcomed these new arrivals, like the Stubbs family, who had money to purchase land in the unsettled areas of the country and contribute to society.

The family settled in Steuben County in western New York where many other Irish immigrants had settled.<sup>6</sup> Edward Stubbs pursued the occupation of clerk in the town of Bath, based on his fine education in Dublin. In 1820 he joined the local militia, being made a Major in 1824.<sup>7</sup> He married a widow, Teresa Elvira (Peeso) Bugbee (called Terza), with three children. Terza and Edward Stubbs had two children who lived to adulthood, William Edward, born 10 March 1824, and Mary Elvira, born 1826.<sup>8</sup>

Edward became involved in politics and was a staunch Jacksonian. He ran for office in 1828, but withdrew before the election. In the 1828 election in Steuben County John Magee won re-election to the U.S. Congress after a race made close and marred by dirty tricks from his opponents. John Magee, of Irish descent, was a War of 1812 hero and former sheriff of the County. He was a friend and close advisor to President Jackson while in office, and strongly supported Jackson's stance against the Bank of the United States.<sup>9</sup> Edward Stubbs was given an appointment to the State Department in April 1829 on the recommendation of Representative Magee and a letter from eight men of Steuben County, New York who claimed that in the 1828 election "he magnanimously yielded his claims & prospects to secure ... the largest possible vote for the Jacksonian ticket."<sup>10</sup>

The Stubbs family moved to Washington, D.C. where Edward worked at the Department of State as superintendant and disbursing clerk. There were only fifteen employees in the Department at the time, with Martin Van Buren as Secretary of State. Robert Greenhow, husband of Rose O'Neal Greenhow, later a Confederate spy, was the interpreter and librarian from 1834 to 1849. Edward Stubbs served in the State Department for twenty years under eleven different Secretaries and through the diplomatic challenges before the Mexican War, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and the

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<sup>5</sup> Stubbs, Larry, family papers, and *New York Evening Post*, Wednesday, December 30, 1807, "Marine List" enumerating cargo of ship Osage from Dublin, Ireland, including "William Stubbs and family." Larry Stubbs, w)301-949-1481, h)301-926-8557.

<sup>6</sup> 1810 Federal Census, Wayne, Steuben County, New York.

<sup>7</sup> Transcripts of commissions: Steuben County Militia, 19 April 1820 signed by DeWitt Clinton; 5 June 1824 signed by John E. Evans.

<sup>8</sup> Stubbs, Larry, genealogy of William Stubbs family.

<sup>9</sup> Emerson, Gary M., *A Biography of John Magee*, Chapter One: *Early Life*. *The Crooked Lake Review*. Spring 2000.

[http://www.crookedlakereview.com/articles/101\\_135/115spring2000/115emerson.html](http://www.crookedlakereview.com/articles/101_135/115spring2000/115emerson.html)

<sup>10</sup> Letter to the Department of State, March 6, 1829. Transcription in the files of Larry Stubbs

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 31-3-1

Name Shorefield House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

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subsequent purchase of territories from Mexico. As Disbursing Clerk he had control of the distribution of money and his own salary rose from \$1,000/year in 1829 to \$1,450/year in 1834 to \$1,700/year in 1849.<sup>11</sup> When the Whig party gained power with the election of Zachary Taylor in 1849 Edward Stubbs lost his job.<sup>12</sup> He wrote to the new President to plea for his job, and had a letter to the editor published in the *Daily Union* newspaper in Washington, D.C., but to no avail. He did finally get his job back, at the same pay, in 1853 after Franklin Pierce, a Democrat, was elected President, and held it until Abraham Lincoln was elected President, at which point he retired at age 74.<sup>13</sup>

Edward's son, William, married Catharine Anne Boyle at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Washington, D.C. April 18, 1843. Both were nineteen years old. She was the daughter of the Secretary of the Navy, John Boyle, and Catharine Burke Boyle. The Boyles and the Burkes were among the first Catholic families in America. John Boyle had an estate in Georgetown called "Retirement," which was torn down for the Heurich Brewery.<sup>14</sup> John Boyle was a personal and political friend of Andrew Jackson and one of the founding officers of the Jackson Democratic Association of Washington, the oldest political organization in the United States in continuous operation. Boyle is probably the source of a pair of 19<sup>th</sup> century pistols in the possession of Stubbs family members that, according to family lore are the "dueling pistols of President Jackson."

It was in 1841 that Edward Stubbs purchased 281 ½ acres of land called Shawfield and Discovery, along with a house, for \$2,500 from the heirs of Rebecca Orme, deceased.<sup>15</sup> One of these heirs, William Orme, was a neighbor of the Stubbs family in Washington, D.C. Edward used the farm as a summer retreat, being one of the first middle class federal employees to take part in this practice. The farm in the country was very convenient to the Stubbs home on K Street, being only ten miles straight up 16<sup>th</sup> Street/Brookeville Pike. In 1848 Edward Stubbs insured the Orme house against fire with the Mutual Fire Insurance Company. This house, now gone, is described as being 2 stories, 18 ½ by 24 feet and occupied by Jonathan Bean, tenant.<sup>16</sup> He also used part of this farm in 1844 as a wedding gift for his only son, William, but being a disbursing clerk (treasurer) all of his life, Edward wanted his son to earn the property. So he sold 165 ½ acres of the farm to William's in-laws, John and Catharine Burke for \$5.<sup>17</sup> The Boyles were to turn the property over to William, presumably after he had built a house on it. After the death of John Boyle in 1849, the 165 ½ acres were transferred to William Stubbs on March 4, 1850.<sup>18</sup> The house described in this application had been completed by April 1850 as shown in the Mutual Fire Insurance Company record #432 to William Stubbs which included: \$1,000 on barn

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<sup>11</sup> State Department records.

<sup>12</sup> Washington, D.C. City Directories, 1834, 1846, 1860. Family genealogy of Larry Stubbs. Transcribed letters of appointment by Edward Marcy, Secretary of State, 1 July 1853; 1 July 1855.

<sup>13</sup> Transcription of letter of resignation, 21 Feb 1861, files of Larry Stubbs.

<sup>14</sup> Howard, Florence Bayly DeWitt, *The Montgomery County Story, "Beall and Edmonstons Discovery to Wheaton Regional Park: 1736-1994*, Montgomery County Historical Society, Vol. 37, No. 4, Nov. 1994, p314.

<sup>15</sup> Montgomery County Deeds, BS #10 F. 446; BS #11 f. 349.

<sup>16</sup> Mutual Fire Insurance Company record, #94, September 6, 1848 to Edward Stubbs, Esq. of Shawfield. Montgomery County Historical Society library.

<sup>17</sup> Montgomery County Deeds, l. STS #3 f.550; l.JGH #1 f. 452; l. JGH#2 f.430.

<sup>18</sup> Montgomery County Deeds l.STS #4 f.414.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 31-3-1

Name Shorefield House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

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and shed; \$1,500 on dwelling house, frame; \$400 on household furniture; \$150 on two carriages; \$300 on crops of hay and grain in the barn.<sup>19</sup> The northern 116 acres were sold to James Haviland.

The family had lived in several different houses in the District of Columbia until 1846 when Edward purchased two lots on K Street between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Streets on Franklin Square and built a large house to entertain as befit his position and accommodate William's growing family.<sup>20</sup> Edward was a good friend of Secretary of State (1845-1849) James Buchanan, and family stories tell of how, when Buchanan was President (1857-1861), his niece, Harriet Lane, who acted as his first lady since he was a bachelor, cared for the young children of William Stubbs.<sup>21</sup> Harriet Lane spent two years in study at Our Lady of Visitation Convent in Georgetown where William Stubbs' sister, Mary Elvira, had taken vows on January 3, 1849 and taught art. The Stubbs house on K Street at Franklin Square was most likely host to many important political figures, and stories have been handed down in the family of many card games and social gatherings at the house. His son, William, who had attended Georgetown College, was given a letter of recommendation by James Buchanan to work in the U.S. Patent Office, in the State Department, in 1847.<sup>22</sup> William Stubbs was noted for his beautiful penmanship.

When Edward, and his son lost their government positions with the change in administrations in 1849, the whole family moved from the city to the farm. Edward Stubbs sold the remainder of the farm, including the old Orme house, after William's share was separated, to James C. Haviland.<sup>23</sup> The 1850 census shows the whole family living in Montgomery County in the Fifth or Berry District, where the house now stands<sup>24</sup>:

Edward Stubbs ,age 63, head of household, farmer, value of property \$1,750

Terzah E. Stubbs, age 65

John E. Ewell, age 24

Josiah Bellows, age 11, mulatto

William E. Stubbs, age 26, head of household, farmer, value of property \$20,000

Catharine A. Stubbs, age 25

Amie [Aimee] Stubbs, age 5

John B. Stubbs, age 1

John Bean, age 23

John A. Bellows, age 15, mulatto

According to the Slave census of 1850 William owned three slaves: a 30 year-old woman, a 23 year-old woman, and a 10 year-old boy, and Edward owned an 18 year-old woman.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Mutual Fire Insurance Company records #452 to William Edward Stubbs, April 1, 1850. Montgomery County Historical Society library.

<sup>20</sup> 1846 Washington City Directory. And files of Larry Stubbs.

<sup>21</sup> LETTER FROM Estelle B. Sargent Stubbs, in private ownership.

<sup>22</sup> Letter from James Buchanan, Department of State, 5 May 1847, transcription in the files of Larry Stubbs.

<sup>23</sup> Mutual Fire Insurance records for #324, Edward Stubbs show him insuring a dwelling house in 1848, but only "furniture and personal property" in 1850. The deed to James C. Haviland indicates that a house was included.

<sup>24</sup> 1850 United States Federal Census, 5<sup>th</sup> or Berry's District, Montgomery County, Maryland, 7<sup>th</sup> day of August 1850.

<sup>25</sup> 1850 U.S. Federal Census, Slave Schedule, Berry's District, Montgomery County, MD.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 31-3-1

Name Shorefield House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 4

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When Edward returned to work for the State Department in 1853, his son, William, now full owner of the farm, split his time between working the farm and his job in the District of Columbia. He kept a detailed record book of his expenditures and income. He was still very active in politics and in 1858 recorded dues to the "Jackson Association," and tickets to Buchanan's spectacular Inaugural Ball March 4, 1857.<sup>26</sup> The 1860 census shows the whole family living at the K Street house in D.C. with the addition of Edward C. Stubbs, age 8; Mary Stubbs, age 5; Catharine E. Stubbs, age 3; F.D. [Francis Dudley] Stubbs, age 3 mo.s; and three servants. Both William and Edward listed their occupations as "clerk." Terzah had passed away in 1850.

After Abraham Lincoln was elected president, Edward, and presumably his son William as well, knew that the new Republican administration would not welcome them. Edward tendered his resignation on February 21, 1861.<sup>27</sup> Family lore tells that the massing of federal troops in Franklin Square in front of their home in the spring of 1861 caused the whole family to pack up and move to the farm house in Montgomery County.

In 1861 the family living in the Montgomery County house consisted of William and Catherine, called Kitty, and their seven children, ages 1 to 16, and William's father, Edward, now 75 years old. The kitchen wing in the rear was added at this time and the house acquired the name "Avon."<sup>28</sup> Perhaps because of the division of loyalties, William changed from the local Quaker insurance company in Sandy Spring, to the Aetna Insurance Company. The name Avon may have come from the area known as "The Valley of Avon" in Steuben County, New York, where William Stubbs, sr. had settled his family after immigrating from Ireland.

In June of 1861 Martial Law was declared in Maryland and a Provost Marshall's Office was established in Rockville. Curfews were declared, passes required to leave the county and checkpoints were set up. A guard was posted at the gates of the Stubbs farm because Catharine Boyle Stubbs' brother, Dr. Cornelius Boyle, had gone South and was serving as Provost Marshall to the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia.<sup>29</sup> Kitty gave birth to their eighth and final child, Rose, in 1862 while the house was still under surveillance. William Stubbs was registered for the draft<sup>30</sup>, but was excused from service by Dr. Edward Stonestreet because of a "rupture of capsular ligament."<sup>31</sup> The family actually experienced Civil War action on Monday, July 11, 1864 when the Confederate army of General Jubal Early passed by the house en-route to attack Washington. According to B.F. Cooling in a book he wrote on the Raid, "The whole army (wagons, artillery, prisoners, plunder, and the soldiery) turned eastward at Rockville onto what is now Viers Mill Road and passed Samuel

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<sup>26</sup> Howard, Florence Bayly DeWitt, *The Montgomery County Story, "Beall and Edmonstons Discovery to Wheaton Regional Park: 1736-1994*, Montgomery County Historical Society, Vol. 37, No. 4, Nov. 1994, p316.

<sup>27</sup> Copy of letter of resignation addressed to Hon. J.S. Black, Secy. of State from Edw. Stubbs, Washington, 21 Feb. 1861, in files of Larry Stubbs.

<sup>28</sup> Family lore and insurance records showing an increase in coverage on the house from \$1500 to \$2,500. Aetna Insurance Company record #2364, 21 November 1861.

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/1864/10/09/news/returned-from-the-southern-prisons>. From the Washington Star, Oct. 1, 1864.

<sup>30</sup> "U.S. Civil War Draft Records, 1863-1865," record for William E. Stubbs, farmer for the 5<sup>th</sup> District, Montgomery County, MD.

<sup>31</sup> Howard, pg. 316. Reference to "List of Exemptions from Military Duty Granted by Dr. E.E. Stonestreet" at the Maryland Hall of Records.



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 31-3-1

Name Shorefield House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 5

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Vier's grist mill on Upper Rock Creek and then took New Cut Road to Mitchell's Crossroads and Leesborough (now Wheaton). The column turned onto the turnpike [Georgia Ave.] leading southward past Sligo Post Office."<sup>32</sup> A unit of the army camped at the creek on the southeast side of the Stubbs' property. Family members closed all the shutters on the windows, even though it was a very hot day, and they could hear voices and singing from the camp through the night.<sup>33</sup> In a twist of fate, the Stubbs family, once threatened by Union soldiers in their Washington home, was now threatened by Confederate soldiers in their country retreat.

Edward Stubbs, the family patriarch, passed away "at the home of his son" on February 25, 1864 in his 80<sup>th</sup> year. He was buried at Carroll Chapel (St. John's) in Forest Glen.<sup>34</sup> The 1865 Martenet and Bond map of Montgomery County shows the name of Edward Stubbs for the farm at Mitchell's Crossroads even though he had died by the time that the map was published and the remainder of the property he owned had been inherited by his son, William. In 1865 William Stubbs was taxed on \$650 income, 1 gold watch, 2 carriages, and 1 piano-forte.<sup>35</sup>

William E. Stubbs died suddenly at age 42 on March 2, 1866 of pneumonia. He left his widow, Catharine with six young children, the oldest two having left home by that time. The estate describes the house as "One frame dwelling, in good condition, 40 ft. by 36, containing 12 rooms, one back building containing 3 rooms." A complete inventory of house furnishings, farm equipment, stock and farm produce was made. His estate was valued at \$1,548.50, and with additions of money owed to the deceased and less money owed by the deceased amounted to \$4,356. One third of this amount went to the widow and the rest to the children, divided equally.<sup>36</sup> One of the sureties for the bond was held by Charles B. Bayly, 27 year-old son of William Stubbs' friend and neighbor from Washington, William Fletcher Bayly, who had died in 1862. Charles Bayly married Mary Virginia Howard in 1868 and they spent their wedding night at Avon.<sup>37</sup>

Kitty continued to live at Avon until her death in 1897, although 65 acres had to be sold to pay taxes in 1880.<sup>38</sup> With her lived her unmarried daughter, Rose. After their mother died in 1883 the daughters of Kitty's son, Edward Cornelius, Maude Gertrude and Marie Louise, came to live there too. In the summers the two daughters of family friend Charles Bayly would join them. One of these girls was Clara Glendora Bayly who became a lifelong friend of Maud and Marie.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Cooling, B.F., *Jubal Early's Raid on Washington*, The Nautical & Aviation Publishing Company of America, Inc., Baltimore, 1989. p. 110.

<sup>33</sup> Family accounts in the files of Larry Stubbs.

<sup>34</sup> *Washington Evening Star*, Feb. 26, 1864, p. 3.

<sup>35</sup> U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1865, Division 2, District 5, State of Maryland, p. 58.

<sup>36</sup> Estate of William E. Stubbs, Montgomery County Inventories, Sales, Debts, Accounts, etc. August 1865-December 10, 1867; Liber RWC, Number 2, p. 249.

<sup>37</sup> Notes on the Guardian Bond of Catharine A. Stubbs, Registrar of Wills, Montgomery County, March 20, 1866, docket 4, folio 158. In Montgomery County Historical Society library files.

<sup>38</sup> Montgomery County Land Records, E.P.B., folio 22, 14 August 1880.

<sup>39</sup> Howard, p. 318.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 31-3-1

Name Shorefield House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 6

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The property was held in Equity Court for ten years while being divided among family members. It was advertised in the Montgomery County *Sentinel* in June 1908 as being "100 acres, more or less, improved by a large and commodious frame dwelling house containing twelve rooms, besides large hall, kitchen, pantry and necessary outbuildings, with a well at the residence and a fine spring within about 100 yards."<sup>40</sup> It was purchased in 1908 for \$5,000 by William and Catharine's son Edward Cornelius Stubbs, known as Neal.<sup>41</sup>

Neal Stubbs worked as Chief Maintenance Engineer for the Senate side of the U.S. Capitol building. He was able to acquire certain items for his home from the Capitol as they were divested, such as a large kitchen cabinet, an ornate framed painting of a woman, and a billiards table. Family lore tells of his friend, E.C. Keyes of the Keyes Coal Company, coming over, among others to play cards and billiards in the room behind the large parlor on the east side of the house. Edward Cornelius Stubbs died in 1928, but his wife, Clara V. Stubbs, continued to live in the house until it was sold in 1941 to Louis and Aznif Melikian.<sup>42</sup> The Melikians sold the house in 1945 to Norman and Eleanor Hearn, adding an interesting covenant to the recorded deed: "*For the purpose of sanitation and health, neither the said parties of the second part, their heirs or assign, shall or will sell or lease the said land to any one of a race whose death rate is at a higher percentage than the white race.*"<sup>43</sup> This covenant continued to be included on the deed when it was sold to Rufus King, Jr. and Janice Chase King in 1946.<sup>44</sup> At this time the land surrounding the house had been reduced to five acres and the property re-named "Shorefield." In 1951 Rufus and Janice King divorced and Rufus retained ownership of the property by selling it to a third party, Vivian V. Simpson, and immediately purchasing it back.<sup>45</sup> The special covenant was no longer included in the deed at this point. Rufus G. King, Jr, "*a divorced man and now unmarried,*" sold the property in 1953 to Frank Wurzbacher,<sup>46</sup> who sold the house, to Montgomery County in 1959.<sup>47</sup> It was the Wurzbacher family, of Armenian descent, who covered the house with brick veneer.<sup>48</sup>

The Parks Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission of Montgomery County also purchased more than 300 acres surrounding the Stubbs house which would be transformed into Wheaton Regional Park and Brookside Gardens. In charge of the Park was Stanton Ernst who lived on the second floor of the Stubbs house.<sup>49</sup> Ted Gurney and his wife then lived in the house for several years before it was made into the Park Police Headquarters in the late 1960s.<sup>50</sup> In the 1990s to early 2000s the house was used to house the County Employees Credit Union. It has now been boarded up for several years.

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<sup>40</sup> Howard, p. 318.

<sup>41</sup> Montgomery County Land Records, Liber 200, folio 92, 12 August 1908, referring to Equity case #2035.

<sup>42</sup> Montgomery County Land Records, liber G.K.W. 819, folio 204, 7 March 1941

<sup>43</sup> Montgomery County Land Records, Liber 984, folio 495, 29 October 1945.

<sup>44</sup> Montgomery County Land Records, Liber 1039, folio 219, 24 September 1946.

<sup>45</sup> Montgomery County Land Records, Liber 1545, folio 567- 571.

<sup>46</sup> Montgomery County Land Records, Liber C.K.W. 1840, folio 265.

<sup>47</sup> Montgomery County Land Records, Liber 2650, folio 177.

<sup>48</sup> Letter to Michael Dwyer, Montgomery County Department of Parks, from Ted Gurney, Oct. 5, 1971, in Parks Department files.

<sup>49</sup> Howard, p. 319.

<sup>50</sup> Gurney letter.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 31-3-1

Name Shorefield House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 7

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Mitchell's Crossroads is no more, Georgia Avenue has been widened to six lanes and modern houses now line the approach to the Stubbs House, but the land of the farm has been preserved as a public park and the 1843 barn still stands as a sentinel at its edge. It tells the story of a middle class family, of Washington bureaucrats and Montgomery County farmers, of Irish immigrants and community conflicts created by war. This highly visible house at the entrance to the park is the last reminder of a bygone era and as such should be preserved to educate visitors to the park about the history of their community and of our nation. To be able to see and touch history makes it much more personal and relevant, and this kind of meaning of history cannot be written in history books. Many homes of the wealthy and influential have been preserved in the County, as well as many structures that previously housed the enslaved and the poor, but the middle class of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century is not well represented. Preserving this house would help to complete the picture of the history of this county, state and nation.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. 31-3-1

Cooling, B.F., *Jubal Early's Raid on Washington*, The Nautical & Aviation Publishing Company of America, Inc., Baltimore, 1989.

Hopkins, G.M., *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the County of Montgomery, Maryland*, Philadelphia, 1879.

Howard, Florence Bayly DeWitt, *The Montgomery County Story, "Beall and Edmonstons Discovery to Wheaton Regional Park:*

1736-1994, Montgomery County Historical Society, Vol. 37, No. 4, Nov. 1994. Now available on-line at:

[http://www.montgomeryparks.org/nature\\_centers/brookside/documents/MontgomeryCountyHistoricalSocietyHistoryofWheatonRegionalPark.pdf](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/nature_centers/brookside/documents/MontgomeryCountyHistoricalSocietyHistoryofWheatonRegionalPark.pdf)

Palmer, Laura-Leigh, *Images of America: Wheaton*, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 2009.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 4.99 acres

Acreage of historical setting 2 acres

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale: \_\_\_\_\_

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The original 4.99 acres is that of tax parcel #963 and described in the deed transferred to Montgomery County, Maryland on 14 September 1959, Liber 2650 Folio 177. Because this property is now contained within Wheaton Regional Park and the historic setting is already reduced by park roads and a parking lot, the land requested would include the 2 acres surrounding the house, including access road to the house along the western edge of the Park and historic trees related to the house.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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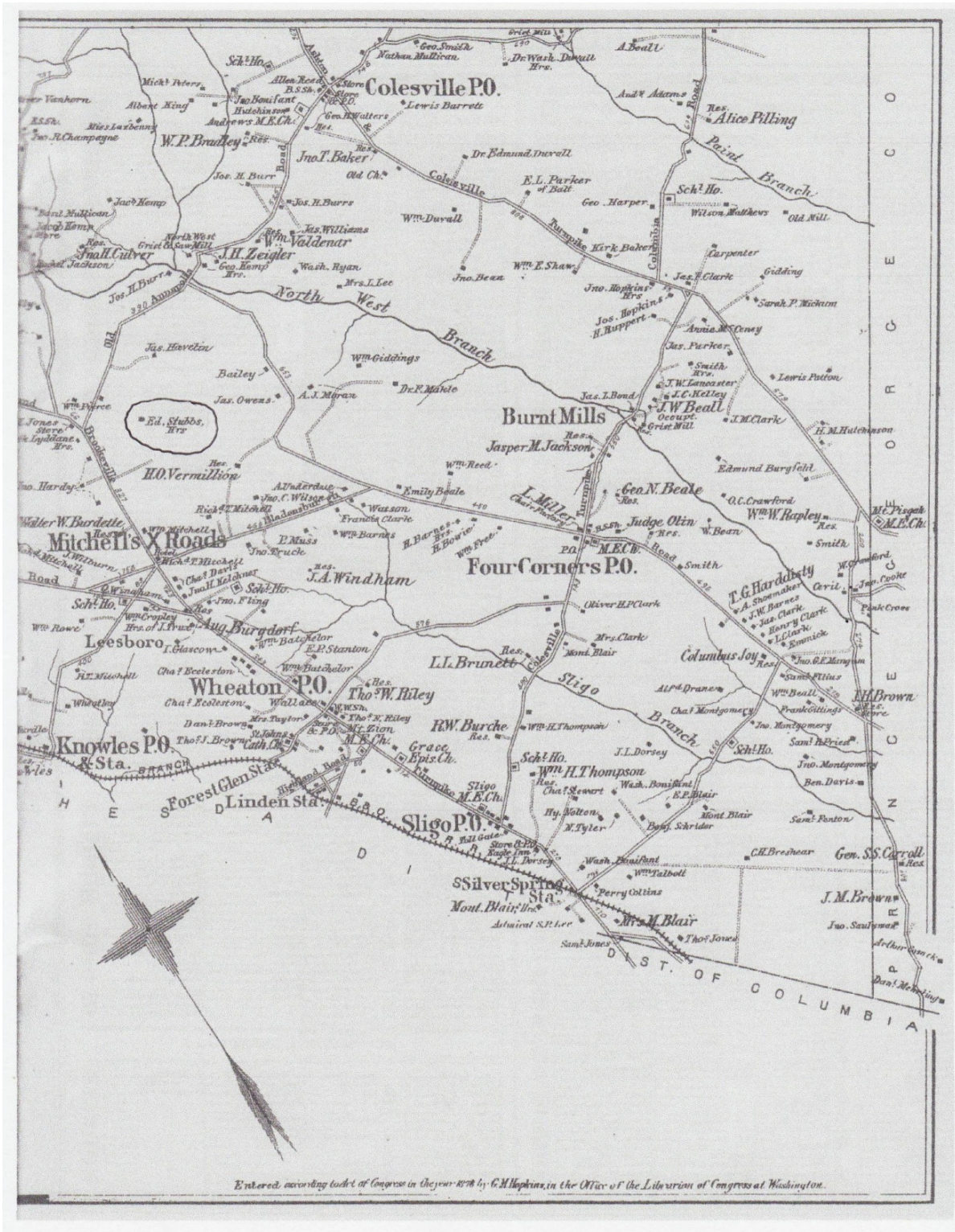
name/title	Susan Cooke Soderberg, Historian		
organization	-N/A	date	June 5, 2013
street & number	19313 Liberty Mill Rd.	telephone	301-972-0795
city or town	Germantown	state	MD 20874

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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  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



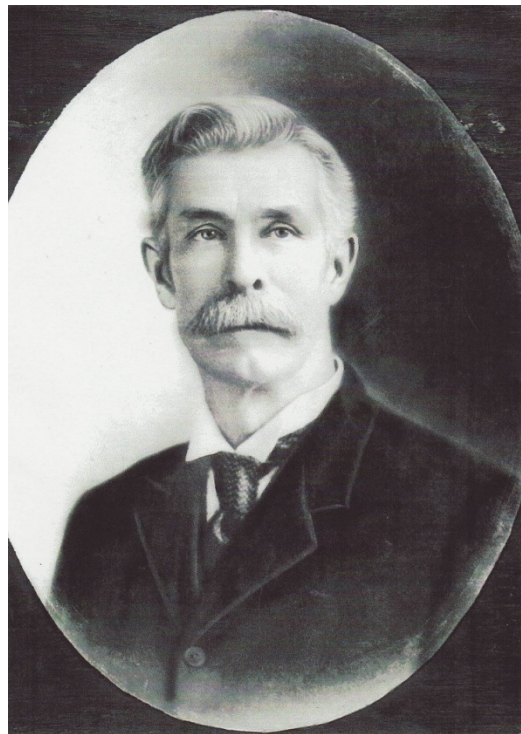
1865 Hopkins Map of Montgomery County showing location of Stubbs House



Edward Stubbs



William E. Stubbs



Edward Cornelius Stubbs

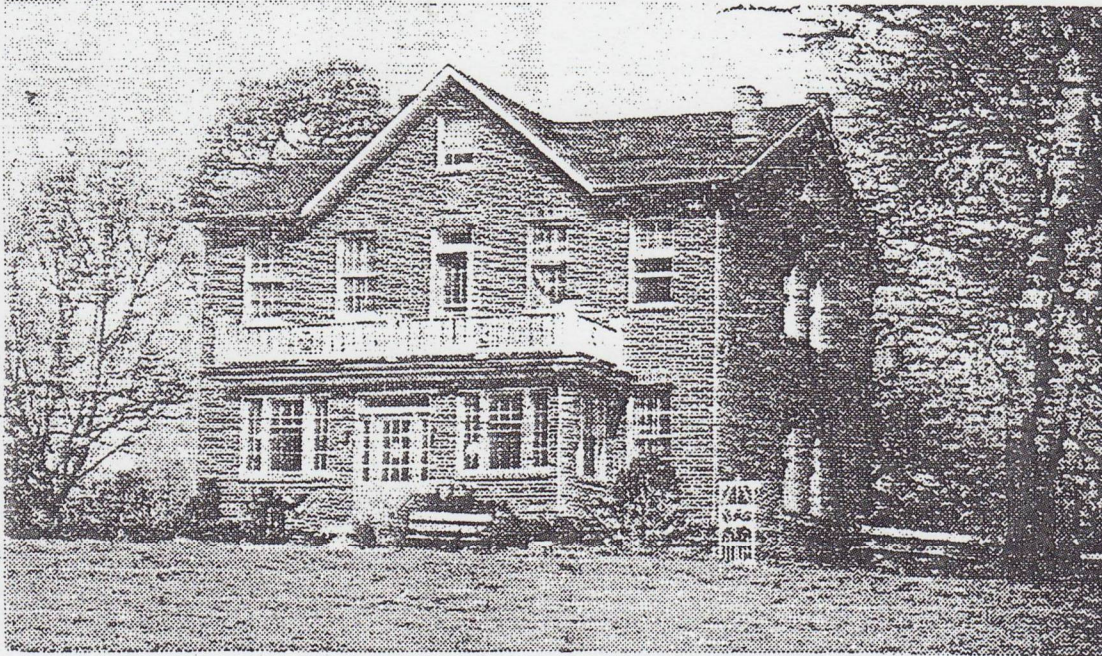


Stubbs House c1935



Stubbs House about 1940

## 66-Acre Estate, Wheaton, Maryland



Approximately three miles from District Line. Large ultra modern brick home, first floor arranged with living room, dining room, kitchen, reception hall and bath. Second floor, 5 bedrooms and bath, open porch. Third floor with 3 bedrooms. Basement with oil hot-water heat. Front glassed-in porch. Outside fireplace and bake oven, two small buildings with summer kitchen, electric pump, small barn, two-car garage and many other excellent features.

CAN BE BOUGHT WITH 5 ACRES OF GROUND FOR \$27,500 OR AS A WHOLE WITH 66 ACRES FOR \$55,000

*Our representative, Mr. Taylor, will be on property from 1 until 6 P.M. Sunday.*

*Directions—Out Georgia Avenue, one mile beyond Wheaton, Md., to Wiseman Beer Parlor and right ¼ mile to open sign and property.*

**Chevy Chase Realty Co.**

3403 Connecticut Avenue

Exclusively

Emerson 1800

Advertisement for Stubbs House in 1959





Stubbs House as Park Police Headquarters in c1985



Stubs House front, south façade



Stubs House rear, north façade



West façade



East façade



Front door



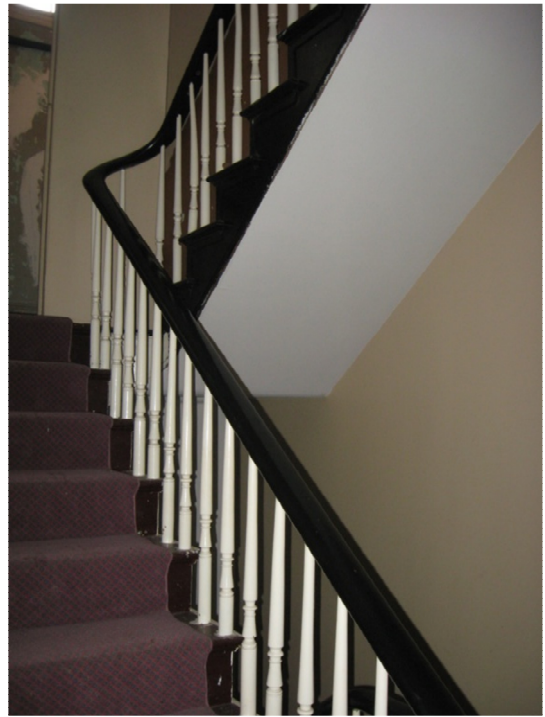
pump



cellar door and enclosed back porch

Photos taken December 2012 by Susan Soderberg

**Interior – central stairway**



Interior



Original doorway into addition



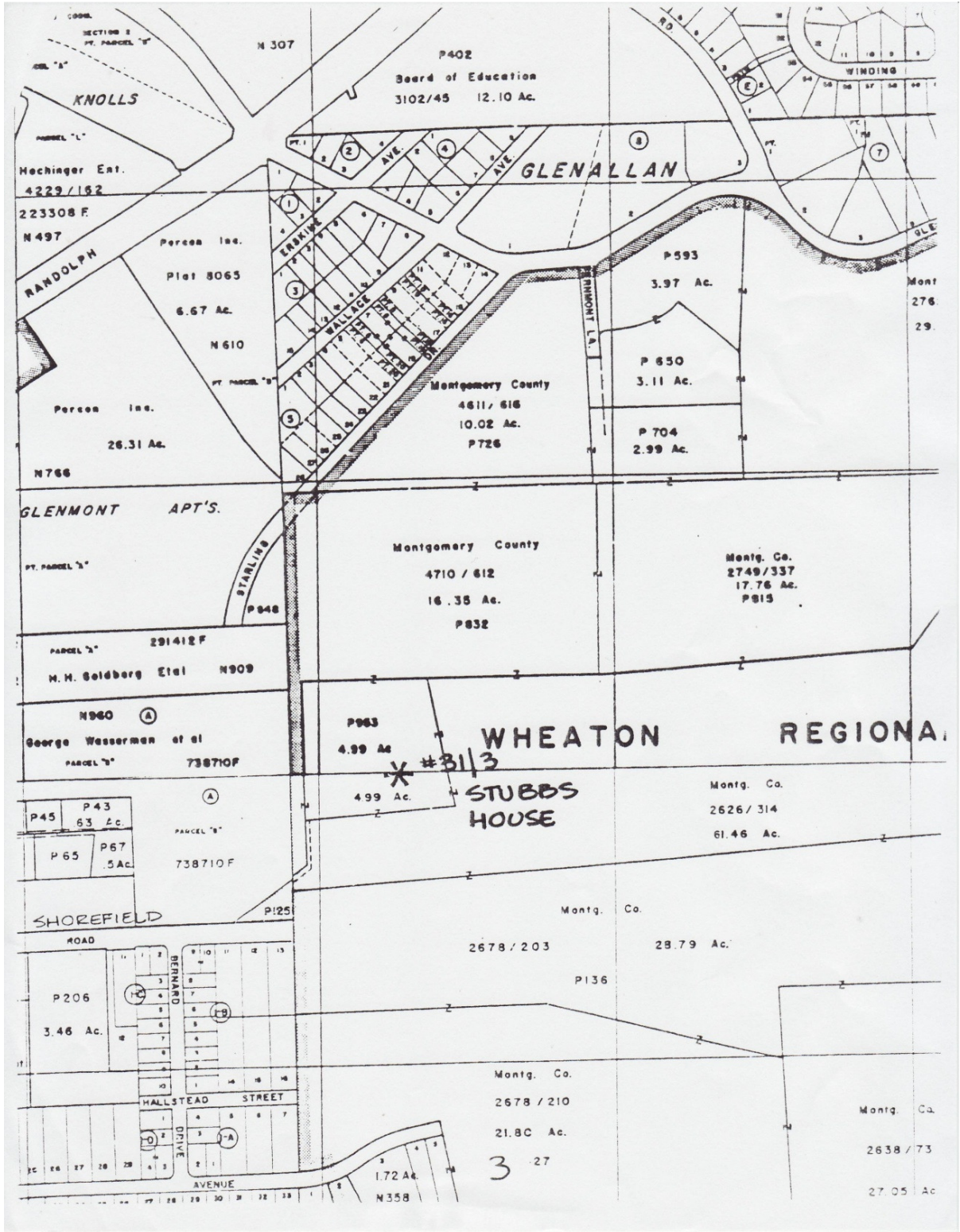
pantry with exterior window



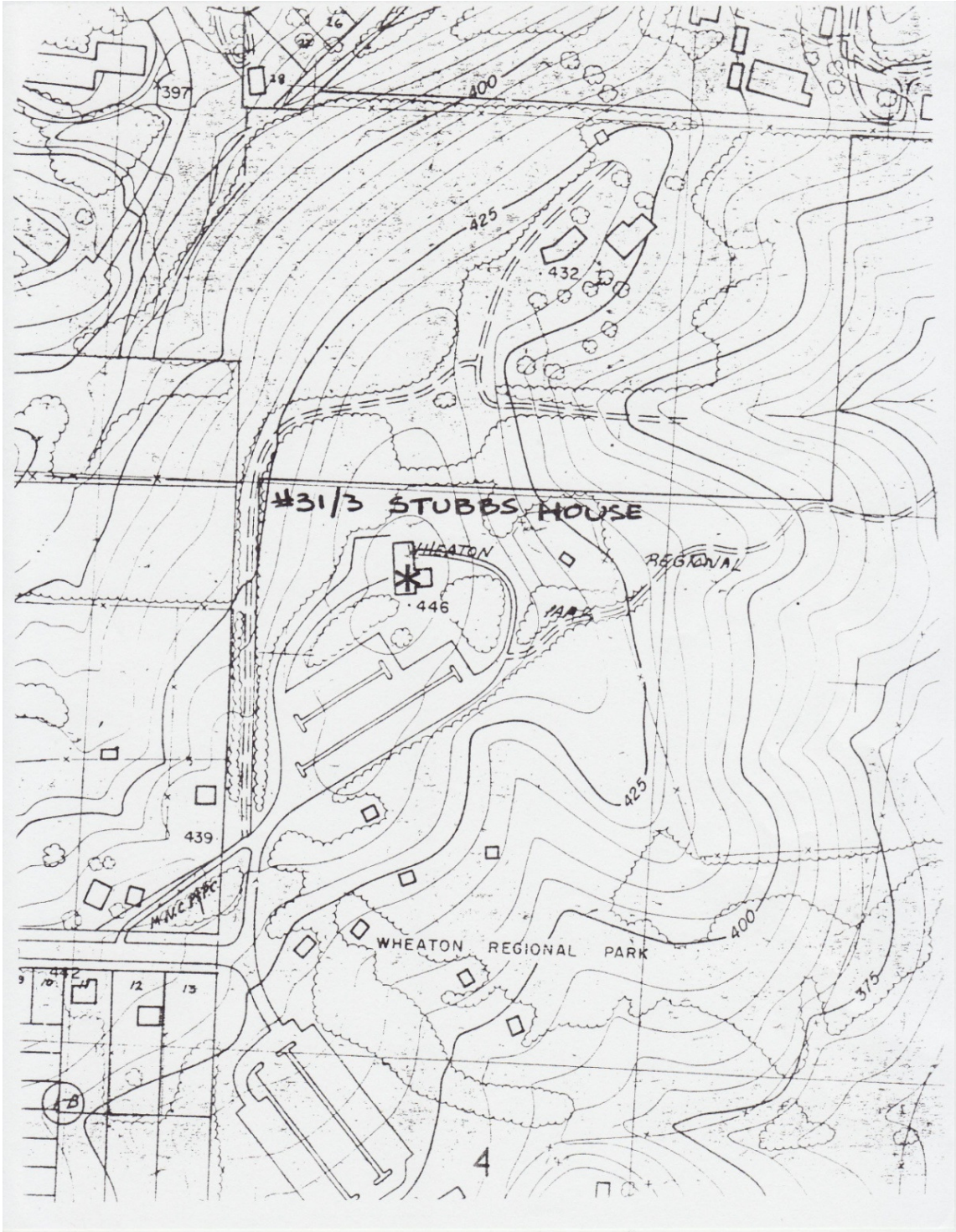
Closet under box stair

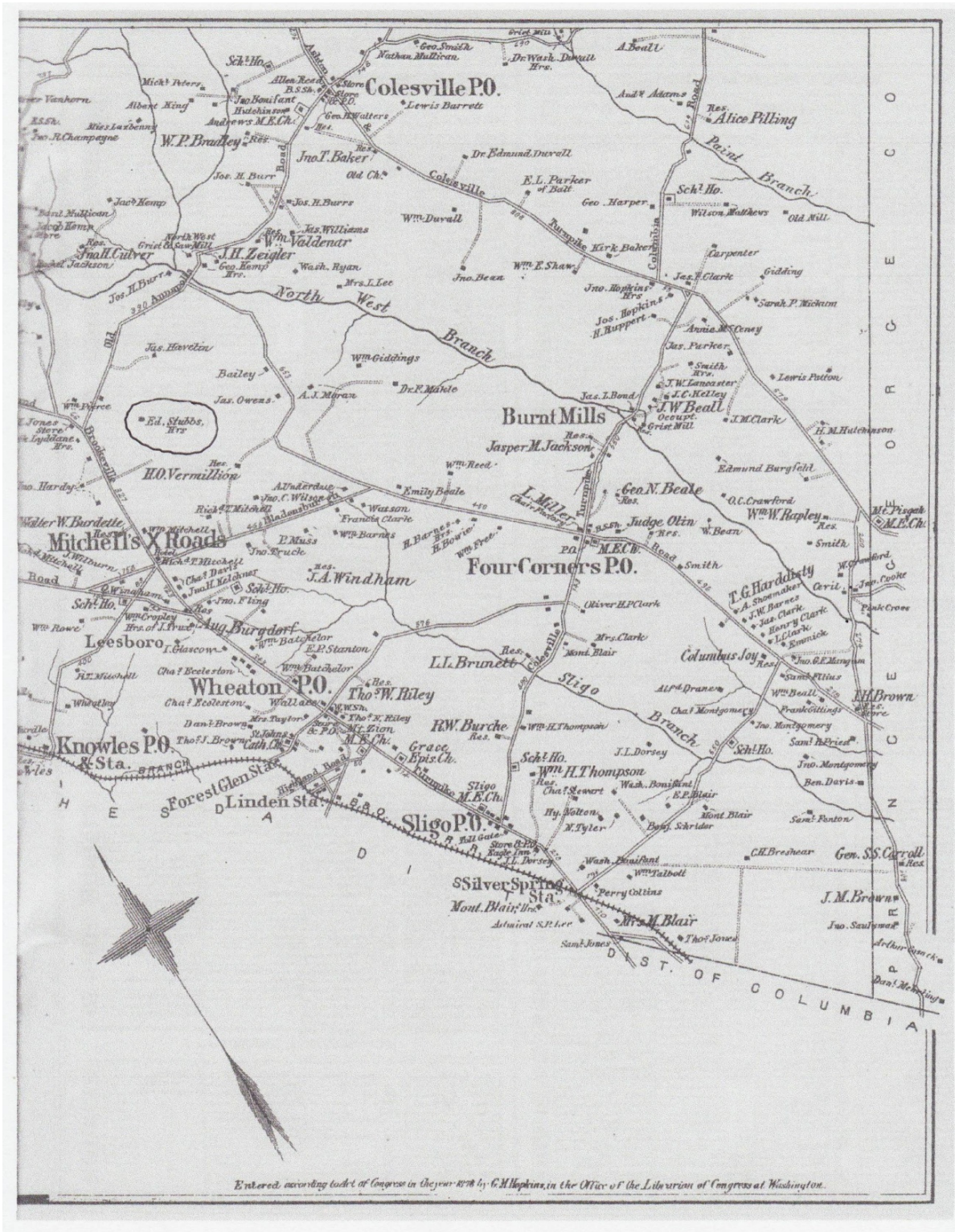


enclosed exterior door to back porch



Tax Map





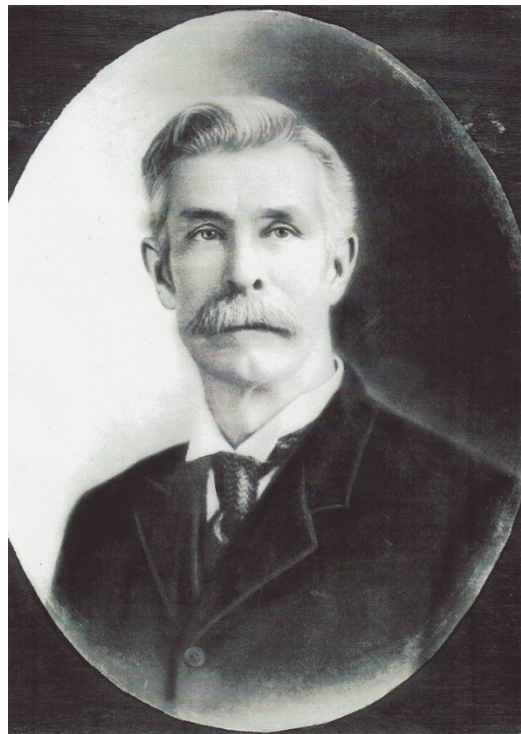
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Edward Stubbs



William E. Stubbs



Edward Cornelius Stubbs



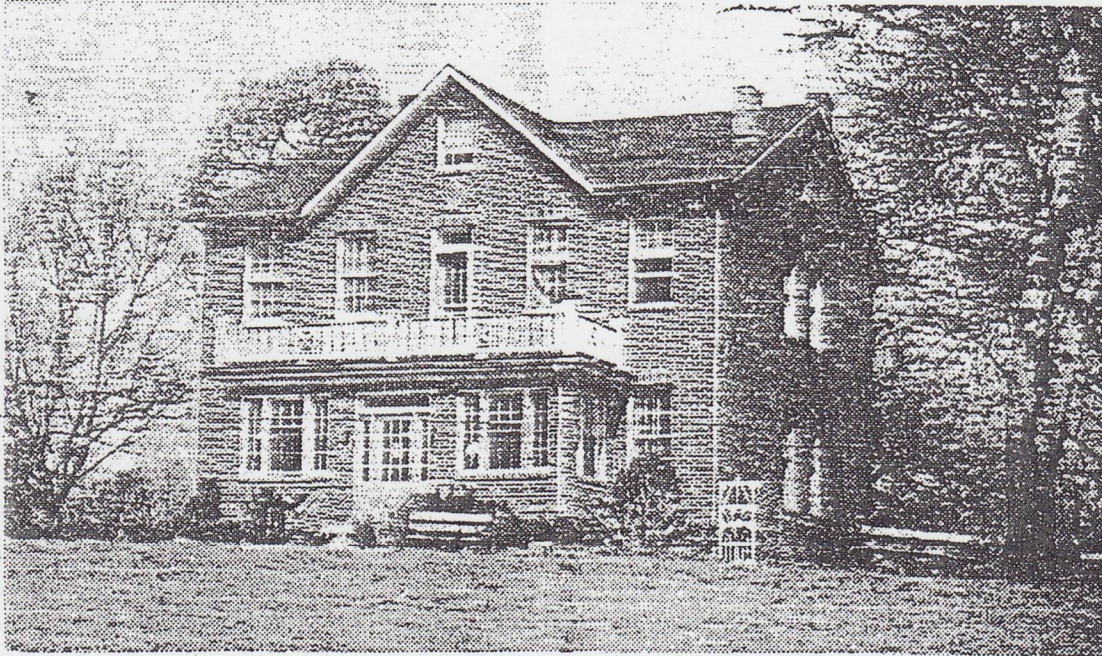


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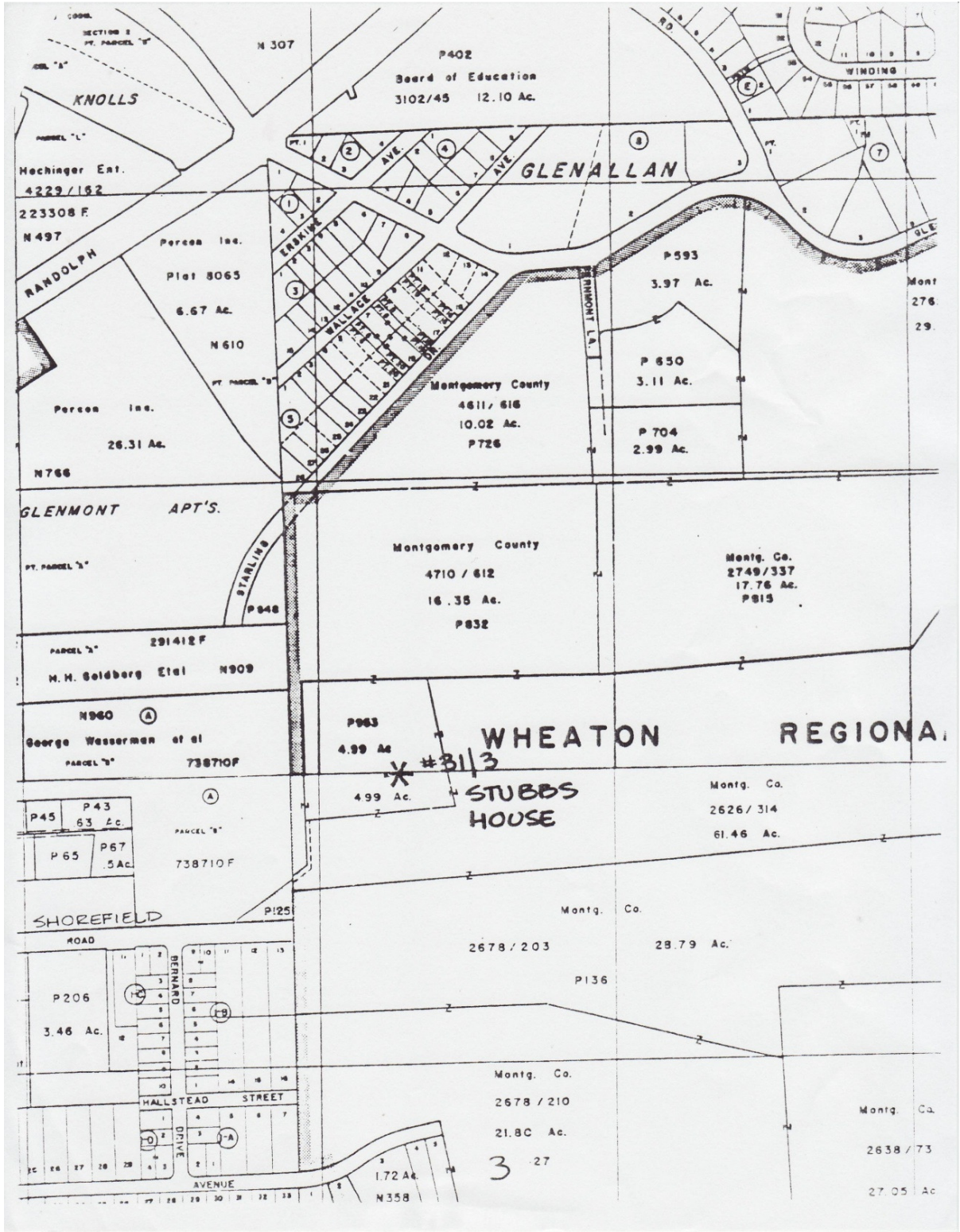
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Tax Map

