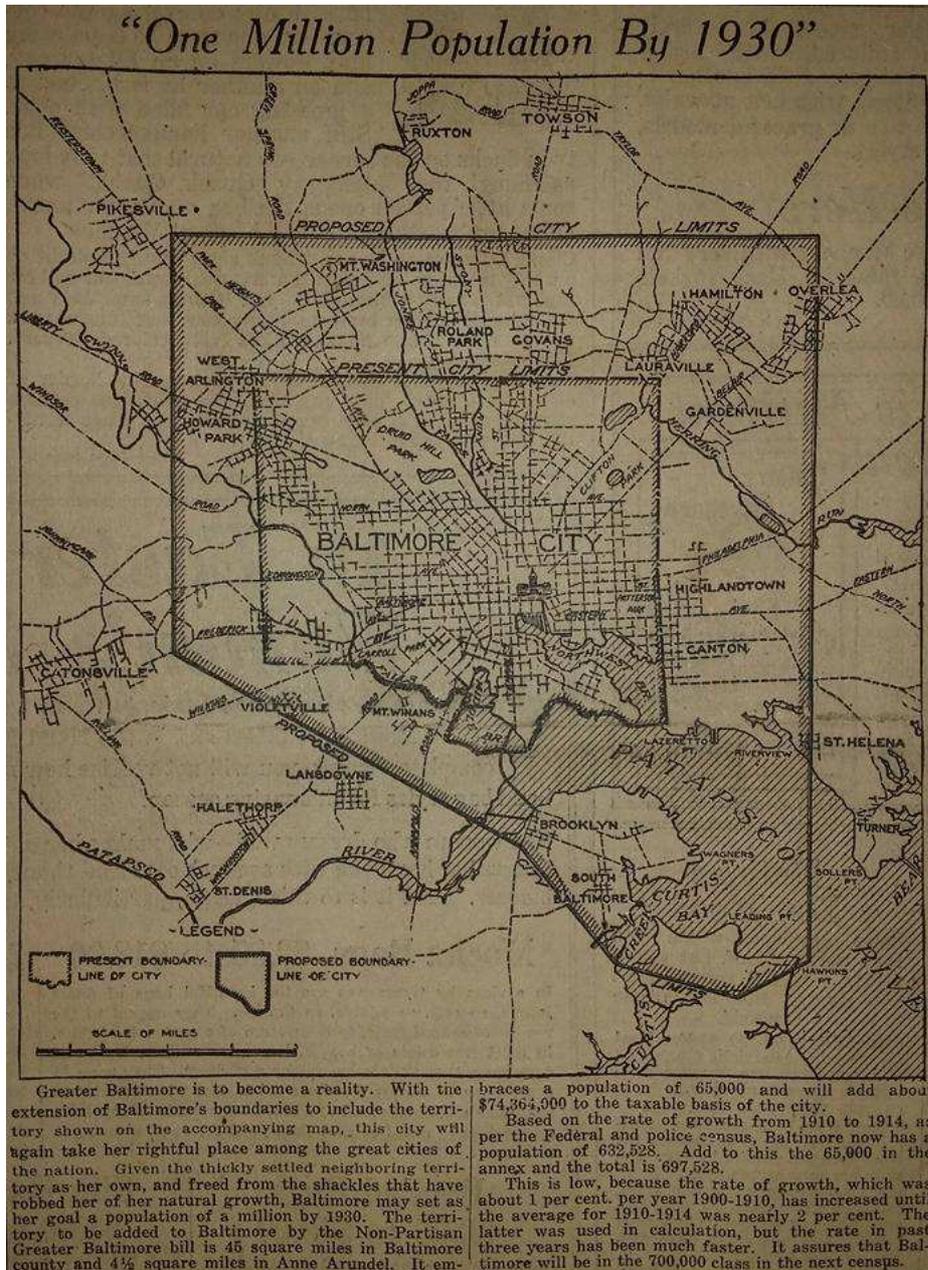


## The Beginnings of Westgate

The first move toward the creation of Westgate as we know it happened in 1918 with the annexation by Baltimore City of the land that includes Westgate. (clip from Baltimore Sun, March 19 1918)

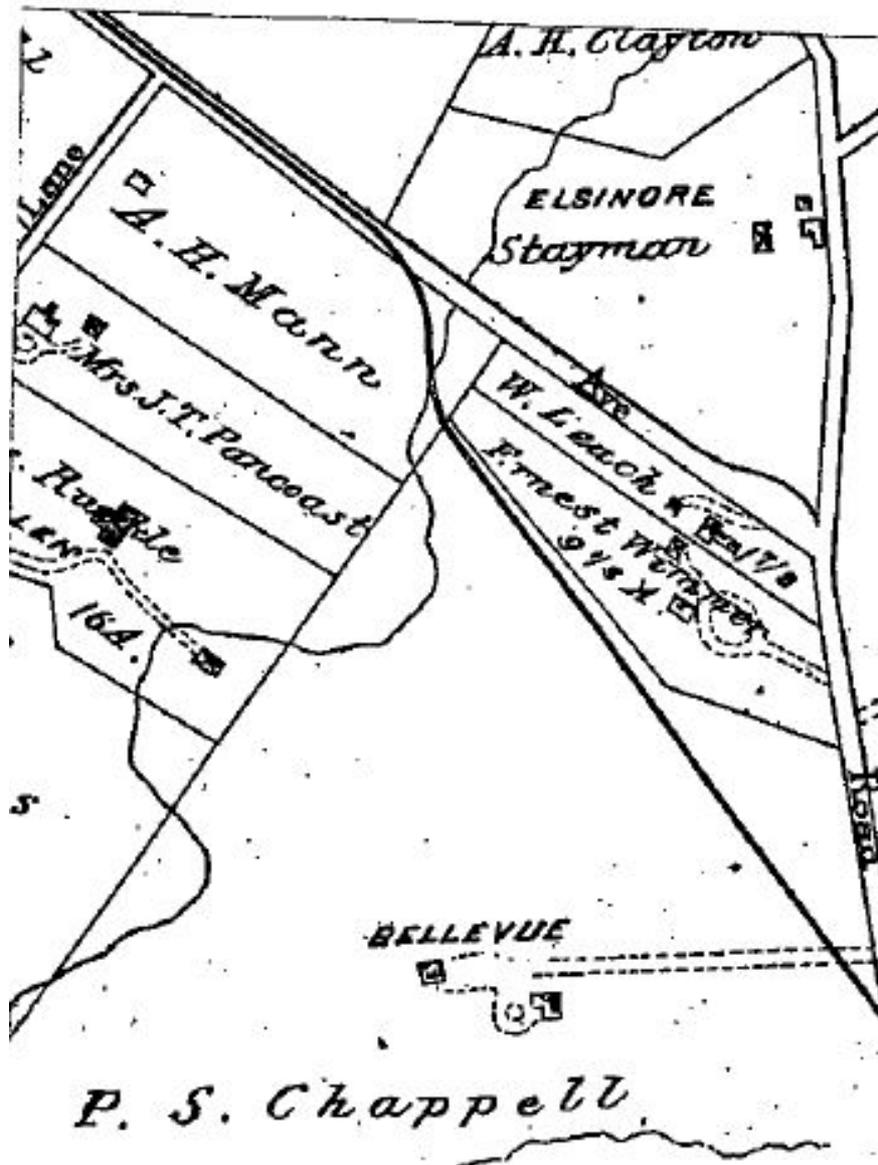


The land on which Westgate was built was originally part of a large tract known as Slade's Camp, including some 270 acres. It was given to William Slade in 1717 by patent. William Slade bequeathed it to his son Thomas in 1731; Thomas sold it to Charles Carroll of Annapolis in 1744, and it remained in the Carroll family until 1834.

In the book *Hunting Ridge - History of a Neighborhood* by John Hubbard (Hunting Ridge Community Association, no date), he reproduces a plat of the area showing owners in about 1877. On this map, north is at the top. "Bellview" was the Chappell estate on which Ten Hills was built, and "Elsinore" is the estate containing the building currently housing the Vaughn Greene funeral home. The "Capt. Needham Est." is the location of the former Green Street Academy. Much of the land where Mallow Hill now lies was owned by Henry James.



Hubbard also reproduces a map dating to 1898, which gives a slightly clearer snapshot of the same land. The black line indicates the trolley track on which today's Edmondson Ave. lies, and Edmondson Ave. still goes straight out to the Baltimore National Pike along the line of today's Greenwich Ave. The plots of land running between North Bend Lane and the boundary of Ten Hills (which followed the line of Charing Cross Road up to Greenwich Ave.) are owned by Arthur H. Mann, Mrs. J. T. Pancoast, and Mrs. Ruckle.





the older maps was the widow of Thomas Ruckle, a painter (see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas\\_Ruckle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Ruckle) ).

After the annexation of 1918, the land east of North Bend Lane was fairly quickly sold off to developers. A large percentage of the homes were built by the Welsh Construction Company, which also built Academy Heights and Nottingham, as well as many other developments around the city in the early 20th century. Welsh was owned by the Macht family, a multi-generational real estate and construction company founded in Baltimore in the nineteenth century. The company was founded by Ephraim Macht, who, according to Eilat Gordin Levitan's historical website [eilatgordinlevitan.com](http://www.eilatgordinlevitan.com), was the first Jewish real estate broker in Baltimore.<sup>1</sup>

The Macht Real Estate & Banking Business began with funds earned by Macht's wife Annie, "who made and sold hats from a push cart in Fells Point". The business "began by buying old houses and inexpensively remodeling them for resale or rental. In 1911, Macht, reacting to the harsh anti-Semitism which prevailed in Baltimore during the first quarter of the twentieth century, used the name of Irish real estate salesman John Welsh and began building homes under the name Welsh Construction. Eventually the two companies merged and formed the Welsh Construction Company, which served all functions. ([http://www.eilatgordinlevitan.com/kurenets/k\\_pages/macht.html](http://www.eilatgordinlevitan.com/kurenets/k_pages/macht.html))

By 1930 almost all of the houses in this original part of Westgate had been sold to new owners. The houses with front porches are generally a few years older than the Tudor Revival houses and were mostly sold in 1927-29, with the Tudors sold in 1930-1932. On a 1926 plat made for the opening of Rock Glen Road, the only lots sold to their new owners were 510 and 508 Westgate Road, making James Donnelly and William Pfaffenbach the first homeowners on Westgate (see part two of this brochure). The plat shows some houses on Rock Glen and on Wendley, but there are no names associated with most of them.

The Westgate Community Association was formed in 1931 by several men who owned property in the new neighborhood of Westgate. The first president was Judge Herbert Grymes, who lived in the house still standing at 413 North Bend. (Some information on him can be found here: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1987/06/08/deaths-elsewhere/a0a500d8-56d8-4338-a001-279708a936e1/> ) Other founding board members were:

Vice President: Nicholas Reus, 504 Rock Glen                      Secretary: William Elliott, 404 Rock Glen  
Treasurer: A. E. Nichols, 518 Rock Glen                      Counsel: Thomas Molloy, 5301 Brabant  
Members: Dr. John Lutz, 409 Rock Glen; Dr. Charles Waters, 431 Westgate; B. J. Trautman, 5302 Wendley; Morris Cromer, 513 Rock Glen

Now, move to the next part of this brochure for a snapshot of the original owners of the houses on Westgate Road.

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<sup>1</sup> If you are interested in Jewish history you might be interested in this history of the place in Lithuania where Ephraim Macht was born: <http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/kovno/kovno.html> .