NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dorsey Hall

other names HO-28

2. Location

street & number 5100 Dorsey Hall Drive ☐ not for publication

city or town Columbia ☒ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Howard code 027 zip code 21042

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 11-9-01

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Georgian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Stucco
roof Asphalt
other Brick

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☐ B Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1800-1945

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: Maryland Historical Trust

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 2 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	341660	4345400	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short

Organization _____ date July 2001

street & number 610 Regester Ave. telephone 410-377-4953

city or town Baltimore state Maryland zip code 21212-1915

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name RTSH, LLC

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Description Summary:

Dorsey Hall is located on Dorsey Hall Road, in the northwest angle of the intersection of Route 29 and Clarksville Road (Route 108), just east of old Columbia Road, near Columbia in Howard County, Maryland. The house is a six bay by one bay, 2 ½ story stucco structure with a gable roof with asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge. This comprises the center and east sections of the house. The house faces south, and has a three bay by one bay, two story stucco wing on the west that also has a gable roof with asphalt shingles and east-west ridge. There are no out buildings to the property, and the ground has recently been re-graded so that its slopes away from the house at a greater angle then originally. New two story office buildings are being constructed at a distance around the house.

General Description:

The south elevation of the west wing has nine-over-nine double hung sash in the end bays of the first story. The windows have bullnose frames with shutter hinges and stone sills with washes that are painted. The second story has three six-over-six sash with blinds, bullnose window frames, and stone sills with washes. There is a wood box cornice with an ogee bed mould. The first story of the main block has a large six-over-six double hung sash with bullnose frames in the two west bays. They have stone sills with washes that are painted, but appear to be granite. The west-center bay has a six-panel door with sunk fields, quirked Greek ovolo panel moulds, a mortise lock with a brass plate, and brass hinges with ball cap finials. On either side of the door is a Greek Doric column separating the door from 16 light sidelights. There is a ten light transom above the door and a four light transom above each sidelight. The jambs have two panels that match the door panels, and the center rail aligns with the door. There is one panel on each jamb at transom level, and the soffit has three panels. The sill appears to be sandstone and the front chiseling is exfoliating. The top of the sill has two holes drilled in it, one near each existing column, probably for an earlier column or plinth. There is a one-story porch with a brick deck, paired Greek Doric wood columns at each corner with a single pilaster on each wall, and a full entablature with pediment. The ridge runs north-south, has asphalt shingles, and has a jerkin head at the north and to bring the roof line below the window. The porch soffit has beaded edge boards. There is a wooden bench with a tall slat back on both the east and west sides of the porch. The three east bays have four-over-four double hung sash with wide center muntins on the first story. The bullnose frames are half covered by stucco. The stone sills are painted but appear to be sandstone or limestone, and have a wash. The second story has twelve-over-eight double hung sash with blinds in the two west bays. They have bullnose window frames, and painted stone sills that appear to be granite and have washes. The four east bays have nine-over-six double hung sash with bullnose frames that are partially covered by stucco. The stone sills

with washes are painted. There is a wood box cornice with an ogee bed mould. There is a metal patch approximately where the center and east sections of the house join, but there is no apparent gap in the bed mould. There is an interior brick chimney on both the east and west gable ends, and an exterior brick chimney on the east that abuts the interior chimney. The roof has three dormer windows, one between the two west bays, which is centered on the center section, one just east of the window over the door, and one over the east-east-center window. The two eastern-most dormers are centered on the east wing of the house. The dormers have pilasters and a broken cornice, and a gable roof with a north-south ridge.

The east elevation foundation has two openings with vertical, diamond-in-plan metal bars that have four-light sash behind them. There are no openings on the first or second stories, or in the gable end. On the west elevation, the first story has a nine-over-nine double hung sash that is roughly centered and has a bullnose frame, a wooden sill, and shutter hinges. The second story has a six-over-six double hung sash set to the north that has bullnose frames, a wooden sill, and blinds. The gable end has a single six-over-six sash like that on the second story of this elevation.

The north elevation of the west wing has a four panel door with sunk fields and ogee panel moulds in the east bay of the first story. There is a granite step and a granite sill. The west bay has no opening. The second story has two six-over-six sash with blinds, wood sills, and narrow bullnose-moulded frames. There is a wood box cornice with no bed mould. The north elevation of the main block has a cellar entrance bulkhead with two doors of T1-11 under the east-east-center bay. To the west is a window opening like those on the east elevation foundation, and there is another one to the far west. The first story has three four-over-four sash to the east that match those on the south elevation. The west-center bay has a door with six panels that have sunk fields and ogee panel moulds. The door frame has a large bead on it. There are three panels on each jamb and two on the soffit. They are sunk and flat, with ogee panel moulds, and align with the door panels. The doorway has a stone sill with a tooled face and a wash, and there are four granite steps beneath it. The second story has four nine-over-six sash like the south elevation, but the west-center bay sash is set lower on the wall. The cornice is identical to the south elevation. There are two dormers in the same location as the south elevation, and they have architrave in place of the pilasters and a gable roof. The sides of the dormers have diagonal, beaded edge boards. There is a stucco addition on the west-west-center bay of the main block. The west bay has a six-over-six double hung sash on the first story that is not mortised and tenoned and pegged. The window has a small bullnose frame, shutter hinges, and a stone sill with wash. This window does not align with the second story window, as it is set further to the west. The second story has a nine-over-six double hung sash in both the west-west-center bay and the west bay. These sash are like the east bays, but the faces of the sills are plain. Just east of the west-west-center bay window is a small two-over-two double hung sash with a wood sill, a plain frame, and blinds.

The north wing is a one story, four-bay by one-bay stucco addition that has an "L" plan.

The southern half of this wing is apparently poured concrete and the north half is CMU's. It has a hipped roof of asphalt shingles with a north-south ridge, and a brick chimney in the center. The east elevation has two six-over-six sash to the south that are not mortised and tenoned and pegged, have bullnose frames, and have wood sills. The soffit has beaded edge boards that extend to the center of the addition and are cut at an angle. There is a break here in the stucco of the wall, these features indicating two stages of construction. To the north are two one-over-one sash with plain frames and no sills. The soffit here is of plain boards. The north elevation of the north wing has a single one-over-one sash like that on the east elevation of this wing. The west end of the wing is recessed, with another one-over-one sash on the north elevation of this recessed ell. The west elevation of the north wing has a typical one-over-one sash to the north. The center projects to the west, has a shed roof that slopes down to the west, and has a six-over-six sash that is not mortised and tenoned and pegged and has plain head-cut trim. The south bay is recessed and has a six-over-six sash like those on the east elevation of this wing. The south elevation of the north wing ell has a door with nine lights over two panels, and head-cut trim with a beaded interior edge.

The east cellar has a hewn summer beam that runs east-west, is 11 ¼ by 12 inches, and has heavy termite damage. The first story joists run north-south, are sash sawn, are 2 ½ inches wide by 7 ½ to 8 inches deep, and are spaced 16 to 18 inches on centers. The floor above is gauged. On the east end is a stone fireplace support with arched bricks supported by boards running north-south under the hearth. The west wall is brick that is roughly toothed in, with stone at the south corner.

The first story passage floor framing is the same as the first story east room, and there is a stair header under the present first story stairs. The west wall is stone, with brick from the level of the joists and above. There is a window opening to the north, with brick in-fill on the west side of the opening that has been partially removed. However, this could also be a brick facing on the rubble stone foundation, all of which predates the construction of the stone foundation wall of the west section.

The center cellar summer beam has been replaced by 2 by 12's ganged together with wire nails. The joists run north-south and lap at the summer. They are 3 inches wide by 11 ¼ to 11 ½ inches deep, and are spaced 21 ¾ to 25 ¼ inches on centers. The floor above is sash sawn but is not gauged. There is a two run stair in the northeast corner that was added at a later date. There is just a crawl space beneath the west room, of about 18 to 20 inches depth, and one under the north wing.

The first story floor plan has an off-center passage with one room to the east, two rooms to the west of the passage, in the center of the whole house, a wing on the west side with one room and a stairway, and a wing on the north side of the center rooms with two rooms in it. The center passage has a random width pine floor that runs north-south, with the flooring 4 ½ to 6 inches wide. The baseboard has a cavetto at the top, with an ogee and a torus below it. There is a three run stair that ascends on the west elevation to a landing in the northwest corner, then

ascends along the north wall to a landing in the northeast corner, and finally turns back to the south along the east wall. It has a paneled newel post that was originally varnished but is now painted, and the newel has a domical cap that is fastened with wire nails. The stairway has a moulded handrail in walnut, square balusters, and pine treads. The open stringer has sawn brackets. Below the stringer are four panels that are sunk and flat, with ogee panel moulds. There is a doorway beneath the stair that has an architrave with a steep ogee and bead backband, a broken field with an ogee at the break, and a raised, three-sided bead on the inner edge. There is a four-panel door that has sunk fields and ogee panel moulds. It is hung on cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles, formerly had a rim lock, and now has a new mortise lock. The space under the stairway is now a closet, with patched flooring, a baseboard with beaded top edge, and beaded edge and center boards on the south wall and the ceiling. There is a gas pipe coming through the west wall near the south edge of the floor patch. There is chair rail on the stairway only. It is flat on its face, with a bevel at the top edge and a quarter round moulding at the bottom edge. The ceiling below the stair landing has riven lath fastened with cut nails. The joists are sash sawn.

The front, or south, door has six panels with sunk fields and quirked large bead panel moulds. The door is hung on three hinges that have five knuckles each and ball cap finials. There is a mortise lock. The architrave has a backband with a flattened ogee and bead, and a large bead on the inner edge. There is a run plaster cornice with three beads where it meets the ceiling, an ogee and cavetto beneath it, a Greek ovolo and a bead at the bottom. The west door is mortised and tenoned and pegged and has six panels with sunk fields and ogee panel moulds. It is hung on three hinges made of stamped plates, with five knuckles that have loose joints. The cast iron rim lock is labeled "PATD MARCH 1, 1870 CORBIN." This is not the original lock, as there is a narrow patch on the edge of the door where an earlier rim lock wrapped around the side of the door. The architrave has a steep ogee and bead backband, a broken field with an ogee at the break, and a raised, three-sided bead on the inner edge. The doorway has two panels on the soffit and three panels on each jamb, the panels being flat and sunk, with ogee panel moulds. The rails and stiles are mortised and tenoned and pegged. The north, or rear, door has six panels that are flat and flush, with bead panel moulds. The door is hung on three hinges that have five knuckles each, with loose joints. There is a mortise lock that is not the original lock to this door. The architrave has a steep ogee and bead backband, a broken field with an ogee at the break, and a raised, three-sided bead on the inner edge. The cornice is patched at the west end of the north wall, above the rear door, where the cornice meets the stair angle. The east door has six panels with sunk fields and ogee panel moulds. It is hung on two cast iron butt hinges that have five knuckles and fast joints. The cast iron rim lock is labeled "PATD MARCH 1, 1870 CORBIN." This is not the original lock, as there is a narrow patch on the edge of the door where an earlier rim lock wrapped around the side of the door. The architrave has a steep ogee and bead backband, a broken field with an ogee at the break, and a raised, three-sided bead on the inner edge. The doorway has two panels on the soffit and three panels on each jamb, the panels being

flat and sunk, with ogee panel moulds. The rails and stiles are mortised and tenoned and pegged. The north, or rear, door has six panels that are flat and flush, with bead panel moulds.

The east room has random width pine flooring that is 4 ½ to 6 inches wide and runs east-west. The baseboard has a broken field, with a cavetto and bead at the top. Most of it is wire nailed, is planed on the back, and the skim coat on the walls is behind the top moulding of the baseboard. The windows have recessed wells below the sill level, with one panel here and one panel on each jamb. The panels are sunk and flat, with ogee panel moulds. There are two panels on each soffit, and two on each interior shutter. The shutters are mortised and tenoned and pegged, and have brass pulls with threaded shanks that have blunt tips. The east side of the jamb, behind the shutter, has a one-inch square hole cut in it. The west side of the jamb has a one-inch wide, 8 1/2 in. long groove that is shallow at the top. The sash is mortised and tenoned and pegged, and hung on weights with cord. The architrave has a steep ogee and bead backband, a broken field with an ogee at the break, and a raised, three-sided bead on the inner edge. There is a run plaster cornice with an ogee and bead at the ceiling, then a soffit, a bead and slight ogee, a cove with a bead at the bottom, and a cavetto. The ceiling has had sheetrock placed on it because of sagging in the center. This covers the original plaster ceiling on riven lath that is fastened with cut nails. There is a fireplace centered on the east elevation that has a dry-laid brick hearth, with splayed brick jambs of new brick laid in Portland cement. A metal damper has been inserted in the flue, and part of the old brick jambs survive just below this damper. There is a new wood mantle that is put together with Philips head screws. It has reeded pilasters, oval patera on the imposts, a reeded frieze, and a fan motive on the center block.

The south center room flooring is random width pine between 3 ¾ and 4 ½ inches wide, and runs east-west. There are rows of carpet tack holes running east-west, spaced 36 inches apart. The baseboard has a broken field, with a cavetto and bead at the top. The architrave is symmetrical, with three lancet mouldings in the center and a bead on the inner edge. There are bullseye corner blocks that are only the width of the lancet mouldings and not of the whole architrave. The windows have splayed jambs with recessed window wells beneath the sills that have one panel, and one panel on each jamb. The panels are mortised and tenoned and pegged. The panels have sunk fields and steep ovolo and bead panel moulds. Above the sill, the soffit has two panels and each jamb has four panels that align with the six-over-six sash. The sash are mortised and tenoned and pegged, have parting beads, and are hung on metal tapes. There is a chairrail that appears to be upside down, as it is flat on the bottom, has a cavetto on the top, and the dentils are only cut into the top edge. The cornice appears to be wood, and has an ogee above a cavetto. Centered on the west elevation is a fireplace with a brick hearth laid in Portland cement and a new brick fire box that has splayed jambs and one wythe of brick added to the face and parged. There is a wood mantel with symmetrical pilaster strips that have a single lancet moulding in the center. Awkwardly set on top of these are narrow impost blocks that are set off-center. The frieze has a raised oval plaque. The bed mould has a beak mould with a bead above and below it. The mantel shelf has a segmentally curved front that has a Greek ovolo on the

edge. There is a new rectangular wood shelf set on top of this, and the mantel has been boxed out on the sides making it project from the wall about 4 inches. The west doorway, which is south of the fireplace, has six panels with sunk fields and ogee panel moulds. The rails and stiles are mortised and tenoned and pegged, and the door is hung on stamped plate hinges with five knuckles that have loose joints. The cast iron rim lock is labeled "PATD MARCH 1, 1870 CORBIN." The end of the door is patched, and there is a round plug below where an earlier lock was, suggesting that there were two previous locks here. The door jambs each have nine panels arranged as three rows of three, and there is a clear break between the east row and the two western rows. The soffit has two panels to the west and four panels to the east. All of the panels are sunk and flat, with ogee panel moulds. The east panel moulds are slightly larger than the west ones. All of the rails and stiles are mortised and tenoned and pegged. There is new flooring in this doorway. North of the fireplace is a painted square of plaster with raw plaster around that must have had wood rails and stiles applied to it to create the appearance of paneling. The existing chair rail seems to cover part of this, suggesting that the rails and stiles were removed before the chair rail was added. The top trim of the baseboard is fastened with wire nails and was clearly added after the bottom rail was removed. The north door has six panels with sunk fields and ovolo and bead panel moulds. The door is mortised and tenoned and pegged and is hung on a pivoting hinge. The edges of the door are rounded off. A door was originally hung on butt hinges here, as the hinge mortises survive on the jamb. The north wall has plaster on sawn lath that is fastened with cut nails that are larger than the cut nails found in the center passage. The studs are sash sawn, are 3 ½ inches deep, and range from 1 ¾ to 3 inches wide. The ceiling is 10 feet, 4 ½ inches high.

The north-center room flooring is 2 ½ inch wide tongue and groove pine that runs east-west. The baseboard is plain. The south wall has plaster on sawn lath that is fastened with cut nails. The west elevation has a built-in cupboard with two three-panel doors above two one-panel doors. The panels have sunk fields and no panel moulds. The architrave has a quirked steep ogee and bead backband and a beaded interior edge. The doors are hung on plain cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles. The bottom section has one wood shelf in the center and the top section has four shelves, the top shelf having a segmental cut. The second shelf from the top has bell pull wires and brackets fastened to the bottom side. One wire comes down from above and passes through the west wall. Two other wires come from somewhere below and pass through the west wall. The window of the north elevation has apparently been moved to the west. It has 10 by 14 inch lights, parting beads, and plain miter-cut trim. There is a doorway on the north elevation, set to the east, that also has plain miter-cut trim. On the east elevation is a six-panel door with sunk fields and no panel moulds. It is hung on new, stamped plate hinges with loose joints and has a plain cast iron rim lock with brass knobs. This door originally swung in to the east, but has been re-hung to swing out into the room. Behind the doorway is a stairway to the cellar that has two flights, with a landing at the east. A gas pipe comes up through the top step in the northwest corner of the stairway and turns to pass through the west wall and door trim into

the north-center room. The pipe has been cut off at this point and the hole patched over. The pipe also went up through the ceiling, but this portion has been unscrewed and removed. The ceiling over the stairway has been dropped, being only 7 feet ½ inch above the floor. The ceiling in the north-center room, however, is 10 feet, 4 ½ inches high. The north elevation of the center section is visible above the ceiling and is bricked in.

The south room in the north wing is a modern kitchen. The walls have expanded metal lath and plaster on top of poured concrete. Behind the south jamb of the west door the wall has pieces of brick and one piece of stone, suggesting that this opening was cut in later. Behind the south jamb of the west window the concrete appears to be solid, as though this opening is original. The north and west rooms of the wing have floor levels that are two steps below the rest of the house. The walls have sheetrock. There is a small modern bathroom in the northwest corner of the north room.

The west room has a fireplace centered on the north wall that has a brick hearth, splayed brick jambs that have either been re-pointed or re-built, and a parged surround. The wood mantel has pilaster strips with a backband on each side that appears to be a steep quirked ogee and bead with a cavetto on the inner edge. These pilaster strips have a raised field in the center. Above the capitals are corner blocks of the same moulding, and the same moulding is placed horizontally between the blocks. There is a plain frieze above this moulding, and above this horizontal reeding. The bed mould has a bead at the top with a scotia below it. The edge of the mantel shelf is moulded with a Greek ovolo and bead, and there is a newer shelf board added on top of this. The fireplace opening is 2 feet, 10 inches wide and 2 feet, 8 inches high, and has a steel lintel. To the east of the fireplace is a doorway with a four-panel door that has sunk double fields and ogee panel moulds. It has a mortise lock with brass-plated knobs and brass-plated escutcheons, and is hung on stamped plate hinges with loose joints that have ball cap finials. The architrave has a quirked ogee and bead backband, a broken field, and a beaded interior edge. The soffit and jambs each have two boards with a single bead between them. The floor is random width tongue and groove pine that runs east-west, and is from 4 ½ to 5 ¼ inches wide. The joists are sash sawn, are 3 to 3 ¼ inches wide, and are 8 ½ to 9 inches deep. They are spaced 20 to 24 ½ inches on centers, though most are 23 inches on centers. The baseboard is new, and has a quirked ogee and bevel on top. The window sash are mortised and tenoned and pegged, with parting beads and 8 by 10 inch lights. They have splayed, paneled jambs of three panels each, with the small frieze panels at the top. The panels are sunk and flat, with ovolo panel moulds. The architrave has a cavetto and bead backband, a broken field, and a beaded interior edge. The soffit has two identical panels. The door on the east has the same architrave as the windows. A door was originally hung on the north jamb, opening into this room, and the two hinge mortises survive.

North of the west room is a stairway that ascends to the west, with a winder at the west end. It is constructed of new pine boards fastened with wire nails. Behind a piece of baseboard on the north wall, near the west end, was a piece of newspaper stuffed into a crack to block

drafts. The paper is the *Ellicott City Times*, dated 1 February 1945. Both the north and south doors at the stair landing have plain trim that is mitered at the corners. The north door has four panels with sunk fields, ogee panel moulds, and a mortise lock with brass plated knob. The flooring here is 2 ½ inch wide pine that runs east-west. At the top of the stairs, the door on the south has an architrave with an ovolo backband and a beaded interior edge, and has plain board jambs. At the west end of the stair well is a window with 8 inch by 10 inch lights in mortised and tenoned and pegged sash that has parting beads. The window opening has straight jambs with plain boards, and the architrave matches that of the doorway to the south. There is chair rail on the west wall that has a cavetto under the shelf and a bead on the bottom edge. The edge of the windowsill is plain, and has probably been replaced. There is a window on the north elevation, at the west end, that also has 8 by 10 inch lights, but the sash is not mortised and tenoned and pegged and does not have parting beads. It has plain architrave that is mitered at the corners, and the opening is set higher than that of the west window. The east end of the stair well is enclosed to create a closet accessible from the west chamber. There is a large dead space beneath the stairs that is only accessible by removing stair treads. There is no floor in this space, only earth, and the north wall is bare stone. The south wall has plaster, and it appears that there was an earlier stairway here that also ascended to the west. The plaster line that follows the stringer course levels out about three steps below the second floor level. The west wall has plaster over most of it, with a ghost of a wall (probably of boards) near the north wall, and a small amount of plaster in the top north corner of this wall.

The west chamber flooring is 1 ½ inch wide oak that runs north-south, and it is marked on the back ". . . RITTER. WEST VIRGINIA." The floor beneath this runs east-west, and the single floor board that was accessible for inspection was 7 ¼ inches wide. The baseboard on the east has a beaded top edge and that on the north is new and plain. The ceiling has riven lath. The windows on the south elevation have plain, splayed jambs and the architrave has an ovolo backband and a beaded interior edge. There are new sash set in old frames with parting beads. The south elevation has chair rail with a cavetto below the shelf and a bead on the bottom edge. This chair rail is miter cut on the east and west corners, suggesting that it went all the way around the room. The north elevation had a fireplace that has been plastered over and the mantel removed, but the hearth of sandstone or limestone remains. To the west of this hearth is a door leading to the stairs that has six panels with slightly sunk fields and ogee panel moulds. The door is mortised and tenoned and pegged and has a rim lock with brass knobs that is not the original lock. The architrave is plain, and is mitered at the corners. A strip of wood has been added to the hinge side of the door suggesting that the door was moved here, and the hinges are stamped metal plates with loose joints. On the north side of the door the panels are sunk and flat, with no panel moulds. To the east of the hearth is a door leading to the closet that has four panels with slightly sunk fields and no panel moulds. It is mortised and tenoned and pegged, has a cast iron rim lock with brass knobs, and has cast iron butt hinges with three knuckles. The architrave has a large bead on the inner edge and a small projecting bead on the outer edge that is

fastened with wire nails and was probably added when the walls were skim-coated. On the north side of the door the panels are sunk and flat, and are hand-planed. The closet has the same flooring as the west chamber, has plain baseboard, and has all new details. The door architrave on the closet side is plain and mitered, and the window on the north is identical to the north window in the northwest stairway. On the east elevation of the west chamber is a four panel door that has slightly sunk fields with no panel moulds. It is hung on cast iron butt hinges that have five knuckles and fast joints, and has a cast iron rim lock like the northwest door that is also not the original lock. The architrave is a double bead, and there are three steps up to the center chamber.

The center chamber has random width pine flooring that runs east-west, is faced nailed, and varies from 4 ½ to 5 ¾ inches wide. The baseboard at the southwest and southeast has a torus with a cavetto above it, but most of the baseboard is missing or replaced. The ceiling lath is sawn. The north windows are nine-over-six sash with 10 by 12 inch lights. The sash are mortised and tenoned and pegged, have parting beads, and are hung on metal tapes. The windows have splayed jambs with three panels on each and two on the soffit. They have sunk fields with no panel moulds, and the rails and stiles are mortised and tenoned and pegged. The architrave is basically symmetrical, with a bull nose in the center of a sunk field, and also has a beaded interior edge. There are plain corner blocks. The south windows have the same details, but have 12-over-8 sash that also have 10 by 12 inch lights. Centered on the west elevation is a fireplace with a brick hearth, splayed brick jambs that are painted black, and a parged surround. There is a wood mantel with pilasters that have applied plaques on their faces and a frieze that has applied pendant drops in the center and on both ends, with applied oval pieces between them. The bed mould has a beaded edge on top and a conge' and bevel below. The shelf is scalloped and has a moulded edge. There is a new built-in closet to the north of the fireplace. The doorway to the south of the fireplace has the same architrave as the windows. The door has sunk, flat panels on the side. Centered on the east elevation is a doorway with the same architrave as the windows. The door has six panels with sunk fields and no panel moulds. It is mortised and tenoned and pegged, and hung on cast iron butt hinges that have five knuckles and fast joints. There is a foliate cast iron rim lock marked "R. L. Co." that is not the original lock. To the north of this doorway, a wall has been built out into the center chamber to make a larger space for a bathroom.

There is a small vestibule between the center chamber and the center passage. The architrave on the west door is narrow and plain, with a beaded interior edge. The north door architrave matches that in the center chamber. There is a six panel door here that is mortised and tenoned and pegged, and has sunk fields with no panel moulds. It is hung on cast iron butt hinges that have five knuckles and fast joints. There is a cast iron rim lock that has brass knobs and is labeled "R & E MFG Co PAT MAY 2[9?] 186[6 or 8]." The east doorway has no architrave. The door has six panels with sunk fields and no panel moulds, and is not mortised and tenoned and pegged. It has stamped plate hinges with ball cap finials, and a mortise lock

that is brass plated. The south door architrave is plain and narrow, with a beaded interior edge. The door is mortised and tenoned and pegged and has four panels with raised fields and ovolo panel moulds. The bottom hinge on this door is a replacement, and is made of a stamped metal plate with five knuckles and a loose joint. The top hinge is a 6 ½ inch long butt that has three knuckles, the center one being very long, and may be of wrought iron. There is a plain cast iron rim lock that has a brass knob on the north and a porcelain one on the south, but this is not original to the door. The south door leads to a small closet that has shelves built-in on the east that are not old. The north door leads to a bathroom that has all new features. The west wall has circular sawn lath with expanded metal lath over it, and plaster.

The second story passage floor has random width pine that is 5 ½ to 6 ½ inches wide, is face-nailed, and runs east-west. There is also some 2 ½ inch wide pine near the stairway. The stair details on the landing are the same as the first story, and the railing curves around from the newel post at the top of the stairs to the newel post at the bottom of the attic stairs. This curved section has a new apron. The railing up to the attic is segmentally curved on the top and is ramped, with rectangular-in-plan balusters, and open stringer, and the same stair brackets as the first story. The newel posts at the landing are round and tapered, and have pendant drops on the bottom. The handrail passes over the top of the newels. The baseboard has a cavetto and ogee at the top, with a torus beneath it. The chair rail is the same as the first story passage. All of the door architrave has a quirked steep ogee and bead backband, a broken field with an ogee at the break, and a large projecting bead on the inner edge. The south chamber door has six panels with sunk fields and ogee panel moulds on both sides. It is mortised and tenoned and pegged and is hung on cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles and fast joints. The cast iron rim lock has brass knobs and is original, having no paint or patched woodwork beneath the lock. The lock is fastened with gimlet screws, but at least two of these are not original. However, one of these replacement screws is in a new hole next to a broken screw, and the broken shank is also a gimlet screw. On the reverse side of the lock is "R & E MFG Co." The southeast chamber door is the same as the south chamber door, and so is the lock. The northeast chamber door is also the same, but has replacement hinges with loose joints, and does not have its original lock, as the door is patched. The existing lock is a cast iron rim lock similar to the original locks, and labeled "R & E MFG Co PAT MAY 2[?] 1866." The south wall has riven lath. The north wall has a window at the landing that does not align with the stairway or with the window in the south chamber. It has a mortised and tenoned and pegged sash with 10 by 12 inch lights and parting beads, and is hung on sash weights. It has the same architrave as the doors and a cavetto and bead on the edge of the windowsill.

The south chamber is located at the south end of the passage. There is a window on the south elevation with architrave matching the second story passage. The sash is mortised and tenoned and pegged, has 10 by 12 inch lights and parting beads, and is hung on sash weights. The window well is recessed from the sill to the floor, with one panel below the sill that is sunk and flat, and has an ogee panel mould. The baseboard is the same as in the passage, and the

chair rail has a bead beneath the shelf and a fillet and ogee at the bottom, but some of the chair rail is missing. This room was converted to a bathroom and has a pedestal sink labeled "Standard" and "SEP 19, 1941," and still has part of a paper label with "Genuine Vitreous China," "Made in the U.S.A.," and "Trenton." The bathtub is from the same era but the toilet is new. The east wall has riven lath.

The southeast chamber floor and baseboard are identical to that in the second story passage. The baseboard is sash sawn and fastened with cut nails, and the top moulding is attached with cut sprigs. The windows are identical to that in the south chamber, and the door architrave matches the windows. There is a fireplace on the east elevation that has a brick hearth and splayed brick jambs with parging. The wood mantel has reeded pilasters and imposts, a narrow frieze with a cavetto and bead above that, and another narrow frieze that has alternating vertical triple grooves and triple beads. There is an ovolo bed mould and a quirked ogee on the edge of the mantelshelf. South of the fireplace is a built-in cupboard with a three panel door above a one panel door. The panels are sunk and flat, with ogee panel moulds. There is a shelf in the bottom half of the cupboard and the three top shelves remain in the top half, but the divider between the two halves, and the bottom shelf of the top half, have been removed. The doors are hung on cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles and fast joints, but none of the screws could be removed for inspection. The architrave matches the windows. There is baseboard inside the cupboard that has a beaded top edge.

The southeast and northeast chambers are divided by a frame partition wall with riven lath and sash-sawn studs that are approximately 3 inches wide by 3 ¾ inches deep. The bottom of each stud has a short tenon that rests in a mortise in the floorboard. Beneath this wall and floor board there is a hewn summer beam in the center that runs east-west. It is 11 ½ inches wide by 7 ½ inches deep. The joists are sash sawn, are 2 ½ to 2 ¾ inches wide by 7 ¼ to 7 ¾ inches deep, and are spaced 18 ¾ to 19 ¼ inches on centers. They have a center tenon and peg into the summer beam. The northeast chamber floor and baseboard are identical to that in the second story passage, and the windows are identical to that in the south chamber. There is a fireplace on the east elevation that has a brick hearth and splayed, parged jambs. The wood mantel has reeded pilasters, a plain narrow frieze, and a bed mould with an ovolo above the fascia, fillet, cavetto and bead, and large bead at the bottom. The mantelshelf breaks forward in the center and at both ends, and the edges are moulded with an ogee and bead. There are built-in cupboards on both sides of the fireplace that are identical to the cupboard in the southeast chamber.

The passage stairway is open all the way up to the attic. The west wall has a setback that is finished off with a flat board that has a bullnose on the edge. Beneath this trim board is the west stair trimmer. The north wall has a tie beam connecting the east and west stair trimmers, and it is finished off with flat trim boards. The east end of the north elevation, where there is flooring, has a new baseboard with a quirked bead on top that is wire nailed into the brick wall. This replaces the original baseboard, and its can also be seen on the south wall. The east wall

baseboard has a bead on the top edge. The floor is random width tongue and groove pine that runs east-west, and is 6 ½ to 7 ½ inches wide. The walls and ceiling are plastered, and follow the profile of the rafters and collar beams. On the north side of the attic passage is a dormer with a pair of ten-light casements hung on stamped metal plate butt hinges with five knuckles and loose joints. The frame has a bead on the interior edge of the top piece, but this bead has been cut off of each side piece. The raking sides of the dormer have architrave with an ovolo backband and a beaded interior edge. The east and south doors also have architrave with an ovolo backband and a beaded interior edge. The south door has six panels with raised fields that are hand-planed, and has ogee panel moulds. The door is mortised and tenoned and pegged and is hung on thin hinges that appear to be stamped plates with five knuckles. The hinges appear to be original to the door but not to the door jamb, suggesting that the door was moved here. The south side of the door panels are sunk and flat, with no panel moulds. The rim lock is made of bent metal plates that never had a knob, and this appears to be original. The door may have had a thumb latch, and now has a cast iron rim lock with brass knobs above the earlier lock. The east door has six panels with slightly sunk fields and ogee panel moulds, but it is not mortised and tenoned and pegged. It is hung on cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles and fast joints. The cast iron rim lock is marked "SARGENT MADE IN U.S.A." The west door has plain head cut trim and a four panel door with sunk double fields and ogee panel moulds. The door has stamped plate hinges with ball cap finials and a cast iron rim lock with a brass knob. There is circular infill above the lock indicating that another knob was once here. The door stops are wire nailed.

The east attic room has the same flooring as the passage, and it is face-nailed. The room is finished with plaster on riven lath, and the west wall is of lapped rough boards. They are nailed to each other and toenailed to the floor with cut flooring nails. The rafters have board sheathing with cut nails in them. There is a dormer on the north elevation that is identical to the dormer in the passage. The dormer on the south elevation is similar, but is set lower on the wall and has a Gothic fanlight that predates the casement windows. The arched window jamb has a beaded interior edge, but this bead has been cut out of the side jambs, or the side jambs have been replaced. On the north, west of the dormer, are two built-in closets made of sheetrock. They each have a two panel door with stamped plate hinges that have loose joints, and have cast iron rim locks with brass knobs. The baseboard on the west and north elevations has a quirked bead, that on the east elevation is plain, and that on the closets has an ogee and bevel. The east elevation has a recess with six wood shelves set into it, and a hole in the ceiling in front of this recess. Above the recess is a circular sawn wood lintel, and the brick above has been re-laid in Portland cement. The east wall has been studded out and sheetrocked. The summer beam runs east-west and spans the passage, as well. It is hewn, and is 8 inches wide by 7 inches deep. The joists are sash sawn, are 2 ¼ to 2 ½ inches wide by 7 inches deep, and have a center tenon and peg into the summer. The mortises in the summer are offset, rather than being directly across from each other. The joists are set into pockets in the brick walls.

The south passage attic room baseboard has a quirked bead. There is a dormer on the south elevation that matches the south dormer in the east attic, but the fanlight is missing and the opening has been covered with plywood. The trim on the casement windows is fastened with wire nails while the top jamb has a beaded edge and is fastened with cut nails. This room is now a bathroom with a new toilet, a pedestal sink marked "STANDARD MADE IN U.S.A. TRENTON MAY 5 17" and a bathtub of the same period as the sink.

The center attic room has random width flooring that runs east-west and appears to be pine. The boards are mill sawn, varying from 7 to 15 inches wide, and are butted and face-nailed with cut nails. The joists run north-south and are set into the stone walls. They are mill sawn, are 3 by 10 ¾ inches, and are spaced 23 inches on centers. The attic ceiling is covered with sheetrock. The rafters are mill sawn, are about 3 by 5 ½ inches, and are spaced 23 inches on centers. They appear to align with the joists, though these joints were not visible for examination. The roof pitch is 36 degrees. The rafters are covered with sawn, wide board sheathing that has cut nails in it. The nails appear to be in patterns of pairs, but each pair does not align with the other pairs in a row. There is now roofing felt on top of the board sheathing. The east wall is brick, with the ghost of a lower gable roof line that is approximately 38 degrees in pitch. The brick joints below the gable line are sloppy and unfinished, while those above this line are struck. Also, the brick above this line is painted red with white pencilling. The peak of the ridge is approximately 5 feet, 9 inches above the floor, and the distance between where the two gable lines meet the floor is approximately 14 feet, 8 inches, which is narrower than the existing walls. The brickwork around the doorway from the passage is patched. In the center of the attic is a cedar-lined closet. The south elevation has a dormer window that has a semi circular arched Gothic fan light and nine light sash of 8 by 10 inch lights, all of one piece, and a bottom sash with six lights. The sash are mortised and tenoned, but not pegged, and the jambs are plain. The east elevation is stone with portions of brick in it in no particular pattern. South of the chimney is a low opening with brick on portions of the jambs and a sawn wood lintel. This wall has been re-pointed in Portland cement, or even rebuilt, and its interpretation is unclear. There is a piece of slate set in the wall near the fireplace. The western-most joist rests on the stone wall, indicating that this wall never extended up to the eaves, probably because the east wall of the west wing was already in place. The chimney is parged with horsehair plaster to about 5 to 6 feet above the floor, then is re-built in brick above this line. There are two steps down through the low opening in the west wall, then two wood steps below that in the west attic to reach the floor.

The west attic has random width pine flooring that runs east-west and has machine-planed chatter marks. These are mostly new boards that are wire nailed. The rafters are covered with sheetrock, are mill sawn, and are 3 inches by 4 ½ inches. The joists run north-south, are also mill sawn, and are 3 by 7 ½ inches. They are all of one piece, from the north wall to the south wall, suggesting that the narrow room with the northwest stairs is an original feature. The center of the east elevation is parged with what appears to be Portland cement where the

fireplace chimney is located. To the north of this, the stonework is not pointed up neatly, suggesting this was always on the interior. The south jamb of the doorway has neatly cut quoins. Some of the bricks in the jamb have whitewash or paint on them, suggesting that they have been re-used. This doorway has a stone lintel on the west side of the wall with wood lintels in the center and the east sides of the wall. The stone lintel rests on the brick, and may have been taken down and re-laid. This opening height may have been raised. Parging at the level of the sill obscures whether the sill was raised. The window on the west elevation has a mortised and tenoned and pegged sash with 8 by 10 inch lights, and the jambs have an ovolo moulding applied to the ends. The chimney to the north is stone parged with new Portland cement, and has re-built brick at the top. On the west side of this chimney, written in the Portland cement, is "1833 by C. D. Todd."

Summary Statement of Significance:

Dorsey Hall is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C, as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, in this case a well preserved and detailed example of the vernacular dwellings of the early nineteenth century in Howard County, Maryland. Where some buildings were constructed in one period in a typical center passage Georgian mode, others, like "Dorsey Hall," evolved into that pattern over many years, often resulting in a less symmetrical building. Dorsey Hall is a good example of this kind of development. It is also connected with one of the "first families" of Howard County, the Dorseys.

Resource History and Historic Context:

Dorsey Hall is located on part of "Dorsey's Search," a land grant of 479 acres in present-day Howard County patented by "Hon." John Dorsey, of Hockley-in-the-Hole, in 1694. Dorsey willed his Patuxent Plantation and "Dorsey's Search" to his grandson, John Dorsey, Jr. (also known as "Patuxent" John Dorsey), in 1714. "Patuxent" John was the son of "Hon." John's deceased son, Edward Dorsey. In 1734 "Patuxent" John Dorsey re-surveyed and enlarged the grant, now 750 acres, and patented it under the same name. Local historian Celia Holland maintained that "Patuxent" John apparently sold "Dorsey's Search" to his son, Ely Dorsey, before his death in 1761, since Ely was not mentioned in his father's will. The will noted that all his married children had already received their inheritance, and Ely had already married a second time, to Deborah Dorsey, by this date. Holland apparently did not locate a deed, however. It is possible that the partition of land was less formal, since "Patuxent" John only had a life interest in the property. "Hon." John's will stated that the land bequeathed to "Patuxent" John was for his natural life, and would then pass to his children, so "Patuxent" John may have been dividing it as his children came of age and married, and thus needed it. It is not clear whether Ely lived there later in life. The 1782 tax list has him "domiciled in Elk Ridge Hundred," and his will describes "Dorsey's Search" as the home of his father, but claims another parcel as his dwelling plantation.[1]

[1]Celia M. Holland, *Old Homes and Families of Howard County, Maryland* (Privately printed), 1987. Maxwell 1. Dorsey, Jean Muir Dorsey, and Nannie Bell Nimmo, *The Dorsey Family* (no publisher, 1947), pp. 134-40. J. D. Warfield, *Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties* (Baltimore, 1905. Reprint ed., Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1967), pp. 400-403. J. D. Warfield stated that "the old homestead of Ely Dorsey, which stood upon the present [1905] estate of Napolean Dorsey, was a brick-nogged frame with hipped roof, brick ends and high ceilings." Unfortunately, Warfield does not state the source for this information.

Ely Dorsey died in early 1794, leaving his wife, Deborah, as executrix of his estate. His will stipulated that "Dorsey's Search," now 479 acres, was to be advertised for sale in the "Annapolis and Baltimore Gazette," and the proceeds to be divided among the children of his daughters, Elizabeth and Eleanor. "Dorsey's Search" was purchased by Richard Ridgely, an Annapolis attorney and wife of Eli's daughter and heir, Elizabeth. Various dates in the eighteenth century have been given for the oldest part of Dorsey Hall (generally assumed to be the stone west wing), though these dates seem to have been mostly guesses or wishful thinking. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax lists several tenants on Ridgely's property, the first being Lucy Dorsey, who occupied a 24 by 20 foot, two story frame dwelling, an 18 by 18 foot one story log kitchen, an 18 by 18 foot log carriage house, and a 14 by 14 foot log stable, all on two acres. Another tenant, Jacob Young, held 420 acres with no buildings, and must have been farming the land but living on adjacent land, part of "Resurvey on Dorsey's Search." There he had a 24 by 16 foot, one story frame dwelling, a 28 by 36 foot log barn and a 24 by 16 foot log barn, as well as another 125 acres. Young was also the tenant on several other parcels that Ridgely owned, but he is described elsewhere as the superintendent of 31 Ridgely slaves, suggesting that Young was actually the overseer of Ridgely's farm. Ridgely, meanwhile, was living and practicing in Annapolis, where he rented a 50 by 30 foot, two story brick dwelling on West Street from Allen Quynn. As no part of the existing Dorsey Hall house is frame, it must all date to after 1798.[2]

Judge Richard Ridgely died in March 1824, leaving a will that ordered his property to be sold and the proceeds divided among his heirs. Caleb Dorsey of Caleb and Charles W. Dorsey bought 744 ½ acres, including "Dorsey's Search," jointly for $35,000. Having paid two-thirds of the purchase price, the Dorsey's became aware of a potential conflict, and sought relief in the courts. The children of Eleanor Dorsey were bringing suit because, they claimed, their mother was never paid her share of the proceeds from the sale of "Dorsey's Search" by Deborah Dorsey. The court ruled that Caleb and Charles should pay the remainder and receive a deed, which finally occurred in December, 1828. Charles and Caleb immediately divided the property, Charles apparently taking 278 3/4 acres to the north and Caleb getting 465 acres to the south, including "Dorsey Hall." Caleb Dorsey was born c. 1780 and married Ann Howard at an unknown date. She died in October 1851, and it is said that Caleb became a bit of a recluse about this time, presumably because of her death. He himself died in September 1869, at which time he was described as ". . . a gentleman of rather eccentric habits, having lived a retired life for the past twenty years." He was estimated to have left an estate worth a half million dollars,

[2]There is no known newspaper by the name "Annapolis and Baltimore Gazette," but Ely Dorsey was probably referring to the (Annapolis) *Maryland Gazette*. Deborah Dorsey later testified that she did advertise, but unfortunately, no advertisement for the property could be found from July 1794 through December 1795. Caleb Dorsey, et al, v. Robert Neilson, et al, Anne Arundel County Circuit Court, Division 2nd, Alcove A, #7388, Maryland State Archives. Anne Arundel County Land Records, NH8-143. 1798 Federal Direct Tax, Maryland State Archives.

and was ". . .extensively known throughout Maryland as one of its most prosperous farmers and real estate dealers." Though he was so well known then, almost nothing more is known of him now, perhaps because he had no children. The provisions of his will are of social interest, however, and perhaps shed some light on his character.[3]

Caleb Dorsey provided well for his nephews and nieces, and especially to three of them, though he tried to control their actions from beyond the grave. To the son of his deceased niece Sally Ann Rogers, namely Reuben Dorsey Rogers, he left a 240 acre farm and additional land, but gave him only a life estate in the property, to ensure that it passed to Reuben's children. To another nephew, Reuben Dorsey, the son of Caleb's brother, John W. Dorsey, he left the farm where Reuben was living for a period of 21 years, then to pass on to Reuben's son, John. There were additional provisions for Reuben to retain the farm, as he had to add 2,000 chestnut rails to the fencing for the first two years, and 1,000 more each following year, and that only dead and fallen timber, or timber from somewhere other than the farm, be used. "Dorsey Hall," with 500 acres and all the livestock and farming utensils, was left to nephew Caleb Dorsey, son of Caleb's brother Reuben M. Dorsey, with a lengthy provision that the property pass to nephew Caleb's oldest son, as long as he changed his name to Caleb. Barring that, the next eldest had the opportunity to so change his name and inherit the farm, and so on down the line, thereby trying to insure that the succeeding masters of Dorsey Hall would all be named Caleb Dorsey. Nor could the name change include any middle names or initials, for it was Caleb's will that the inheritor's name ". . . shall be simply and alone the two words 'Caleb Dorsey' and that any addition to or change from said words shall defeat a compliance with this condition." In fact, Caleb Dorsey of Caleb simply refers to his nephew as Caleb Dorsey, though he was actually Caleb T. Dorsey.[4]

Caleb's original will, made in August 1864, manumitted ". . . my negro slaves Phil, Caesar, Nell, Rachel and Eliza," and ordered that they ". . . be comfortably supported during their respective lives out of the profits of the farm . . . ," "Dorsey Hall." He also set up a trust to provide each of them with either $40 or $60 dollars a year. Rachel died before Caleb, and her share went to " . . . the colored woman Darkey now living with me for her life . . . ." As the war was ending Caleb added another slave as a legatee, ". . . Paul or Poll . . . ," who also died before Caleb, and whose children received her share. Since the Civil War ended before his death, the manumission provision became mute, but he still provided for them. Eliza, Nell, Caesar, and Phil were ". . . allowed to remain in the quarter building on the farm on which I reside in the same manner as they have heretofore done, and . . . they shall be comfortably clothed and fed so

[3]Anne Arundel County Land Records, WSG 14-291, WSG 14-295, & WSG 14-298. Caleb Dorsey, et al, v. Robert Neilson, et al, Anne Arundel County Circuit Court, Division 2nd, Alcove A, #7388, Maryland State Archives. *Baltimore Gazette*, 7 September 1869, p. 4, c. 3. *Baltimore American*, 7 September 1869, p. 4, c. 4.

[4]Caleb Dorsey of Caleb, Will, Howard County Register of Wills, TBH 2-112.

long as they remain there and I charge my said farm with so feeding and clothing them." While this hardly gave them independence, it gave them a better standard of living than many freed slaves received at the hands of their former masters. Yet he did not free all of his slaves. Two of them, Harriet and Jane, were given to his sister Elizabeth W. Baer. The remainder were freed, but no other provision was made for them. Caleb Dorsey's last codicil was to set up a trust fund of $30,000 for ". . . the relief of such portions of the people of the late slaveholding states of this Union as the said trustees may think most require assistance on account of their suffering and want." This is more difficult to interpret, since it does not specifically state that it was for the benefit of former slaves, and could have been for the use of impoverished white southerners.[5]

The 1878 Hopkins Atlas of Howard County shows Caleb T. Dorsey, son of Reuben M. Dorsey, at "Dorsey Hall." In September of the following year, however, Caleb T. died, apparently having never married. His parents and siblings inherited "Dorsey Hall," but in 1880 his father Reuben died, and a year later the surviving family members sold Caleb T. Dorsey's farm to Reuben Dorsey Rogers. Reuben Rogers had already inherited one farm from Caleb Dorsey of Caleb, and possibly was living there, though little is known about this property. While Reuben owned farms and described himself as a farmer in 1878, eventually he probably did not actively run them, as at some point he became an attorney with a practice in Ellicott City. Reuben Rogers got into financial trouble and Dorsey Hall was seized by the sheriff and sold at auction in 1914. Reuben's grandfather, Reuben M. Dorsey, would not have been surprised that Reuben was having trouble with money. In an 1877 codicil to his will, Reuben Dorsey set up a trust to control Reuben Roger's considerable inheritance, the only heir he felt compelled to do this with. Clearly, there must have been some foreshadowing of troubles to come.[6]

The 1914 advertisement for the sale of Dorsey Hall notes simply that "this land is improved with dwelling and outbuildings and two tenant houses; also fine large barracks." Only the dwelling has survived down to the present. The farm was purchased by members of the Rogers family, and apparently Reuben Rogers lived here until his death in 1918, at which time the Rogers family sold Dorsey Hall to Morris Shapiro of Baltimore City. At this time the farm was reportedly being operated by a Caleb Dorsey for Shapiro. Shapiro then sold it to Royden Blunt, and he farmed it until 1959, when he purchased a farm near Glenelg. Blunt grew tobacco and corn, and raised beef cattle. The farming operations likely stopped after he sold the property, as the new owner, realtor Julius Mandel, failed in an attempt to build high-rise apartments. Dr. Cyrus Blanchard leased the house in the 1960's and '70's, while the property was purchased by the Columbia Industrial Development Corp., who wanted to incorporate it into

[5]Caleb Dorsey of Caleb, Will, Howard County Register of Wills, TBH 2-112.

[6]G. M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Baltimore Including Howard Co., Maryland*, (Philadelphia, 1878). *Ellicott City Times*, 11 July 1914, p. 3, c. 7, p. 4, c. 4. Reuben M. Dorsey Will, Howard County Register of Wills, TBH 2-423.

Columbia. Community resistance prevented that from happening in 1968, but there have been continual efforts to develop the farm, and it is now almost completely built up.[7]

Written records on the house at Dorsey Hall are sparse and tell little about what is a very complicated building with at least five major periods of construction, and probably six. (It should be noted that the following interpretation of the building differs substantially from an earlier one in a c. 1980 survey of the property by Cleora Barnes Thompson.) Since the 1798 tax list does not mention any stone or brick buildings on the property, the existing structure must date to after that period. The west wing has always been assumed to be the oldest part of the building, and this seems to be true, but it is nonetheless problematic. In the first place, the plan is very unusual, as the fireplace is on the north or rear wall, rather than on a gable end, and the stairway is placed in a small room to the north side of the fireplace. This room is not an addition, as the attic joists are all of one piece, with riven lath fastened to the second story ceiling side of these joists. Cleora Barnes Thompson states that the roof was raised and an addition put on the north (presumably the stairway), but she does not give any source for this information or mention any physical evidence that would lead to this conclusion. Thus, this stair room could have been an open porch later enclosed with a stone wall on the north side, or could have been always enclosed. Since the window and chair rail at the west end of the stairway, on the second story, matches that in the rest of the second story west wing, it seems unlikely that this was ever an open porch. Nor does it appear that the north wall is added at the northwest corner, though the evidence of this is hardly certain. The doorway into the second story chamber also matches those of the west wing, suggesting that there must have always been a stairway on the north. It is possible that there was an enclosed wooden stairway on an otherwise open north porch, as has been observed in a few other instances in Piedmont Maryland, and the north wall warrants further investigation to determine whether it is original or a later addition. While the three-bay arrangement of the south facade is typical, one would expect a doorway in the center of the first story, but there is no evidence that there was one. This is another feature that should be more closely examined.[8]

The side doorway that leads to the center room is original, and suggests the likelihood that there was a center section that was already standing, and the west wing was added to it. The attic shows that the west brick wall of the east wing was built up against an existing structure that was shorter than the center section presently is, and the center section does not have an east wall on the east foundation wall, so it must have been taken down. There is no evidence that the center section, which is stone, was raised, so it must have been rebuilt. The north elevation,

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[7]*Ellicott City Times*, 11 July 1914, p. 4, c. 4. Holland, *Old Homes and Families of Howard County*, p. 128. "Dorsey Hall Again in Middle of Hotly Contested Acreage," *Baltimore Sun*, c. October 1973. Howard County Historical Society VF.

[8]Cleora Barnes Thompson, Maryland State Historic Sites Survey, HO-28, "Dorsey Hall," n.d.

where it is covered by the gable roof of the north wing, is large blocks of finely cut ashlar. Since this was the rear elevation, the use of ashlar here is unusual. The center section does not have gable end walls, presumably because the walls of the east and west wings were already in place. The center section also has sawn lath, while the east section has earlier, riven lath throughout, and the symmetrical architrave in the center section, with lancet mouldings and bull's-eye corner blocks, are clearly the latest mouldings in the house, dating it to c. 1835-1860. The foundation of the center section measures about 24 feet square, not the 24 by 20 feet of the two story frame house in the 1798 tax list, so either that house was not at this location or someone made a mistake in recording. In either case, most of that building does not exist, though it did when the east wing was put on, c. 1810-1830. The west wall of the center section, which is stone, apparently is from the earlier building. This wall had applied wood rails and stiles on the plaster, which were removed when the rest of the center section was rebuilt, which explains why there is no evidence of them on the north or east walls. Presumably, after the east wing was added, the center wing was rebuilt with more modern trim and a roof height in line with the east section. The roofing material at this time was likely slate, as the existing roof sheathing is butted boards with cut nails in them, indicating that it is a nineteenth century sheathing. Typically, boards were only used for slate. The existing nails and nail holes are also in patterns of two, in general rows, but not in exact lines. Since nail holes in slate at this time was punched by hand by the slater, the rows would not be exact. These changes, then created a center passage plan dwelling, though one of six bays, not the more typical five, and with a shorter three-bay wing on the west. These last changes, and possibly the east wing, must have been made by Caleb Dorsey during his ownership. Since his wife died in 1851, and he became a bit of a recluse around that time, one would think that the last changes were made by 1850. The east wing may also have been built by Caleb Dorsey c. 1830, right after he acquired the property, though it could have been added by his predecessor, Richard Ridgely, especially if he was considering retiring to the farm shortly before he died.

A 1958 article on Dorsey Hall notes that there was a kitchen wing that was torn down in 1918 and ". . . since replaced by a new one . . . ," which would presumably be where the existing kitchen is. This wing is of poured concrete, and probably dates to the changes made c. 1940-45. The doorway from the center section to this kitchen wing is also from that period, and it appears that a window on the rear of the center section was moved to the west to accommodate this kitchen, so it does not seem likely that any old kitchen that existed was attached. The 1958 article also illustrates a one-story stone "Quarter" on the property that did not survive to c. 1980, when Dorsey Hall was first inventoried. Little seems to have been done to the house from at least the Civil War to World War II. In the period 1940-45, and perhaps all at once in 1945, the house was renovated with Colonial Revival details. The front porch was added, the original front door in the east wing was replaced with the existing door with sidelights and transom, the first story stairway was widened at the bottom and given a new handrail, balusters, newel post, and stair brackets, the northwest stairway was rebuilt, and several bathrooms were added. The

south-center room firebox was probably rebuilt at this time, with a new lining of brick added to the jambs and front. In order to accommodate this, the mantel was removed and re-installed with new boards on either side and a new shelf added on top of the original mantel shelf, thus making the mantel project about four inches further forward than originally, just enough to cover the extra wythe of brick that was added. The kitchen wing on the north, with poured concrete walls, was likely constructed at this time, and the walls may have been stuccoed, too, though it is possible that this was a renewal of earlier roughcasting. Undated notes on the house in the Historical Society of Howard County claim that in the 1930's the exterior was painted a red brick color and not stuccoed. Certainly, the east wing was painted red and pencilled in the nineteenth century, and it would not be unusual to have this treatment continued into the twentieth century. The unknown author of these notes also claims that the original roof was wood shingles, but does not give any source for these claims, and does not specify what period "original" refers to. A c. 1950's photograph at the Historical Society of Howard County shows a roof of diamond pattern shingles that were probably asphalt installed in the 1940's. All of this renovation work must have been done by Royden Blunt.

The house underwent a renovation in 1979, according to the survey made the following year. The mantel in the east wing was apparently moved to the west wing, and the east wing firebox was rebuilt and made larger because it was believed that it had originally been larger. The west wing mantel is consistent with the east wing period of construction, and could have been the original. A large, new wood mantel was constructed for the east wing. There is a one story concrete block addition, with stucco, on the north end of the kitchen wing that may date to this renovation, as well.

Major Bibliographical References:

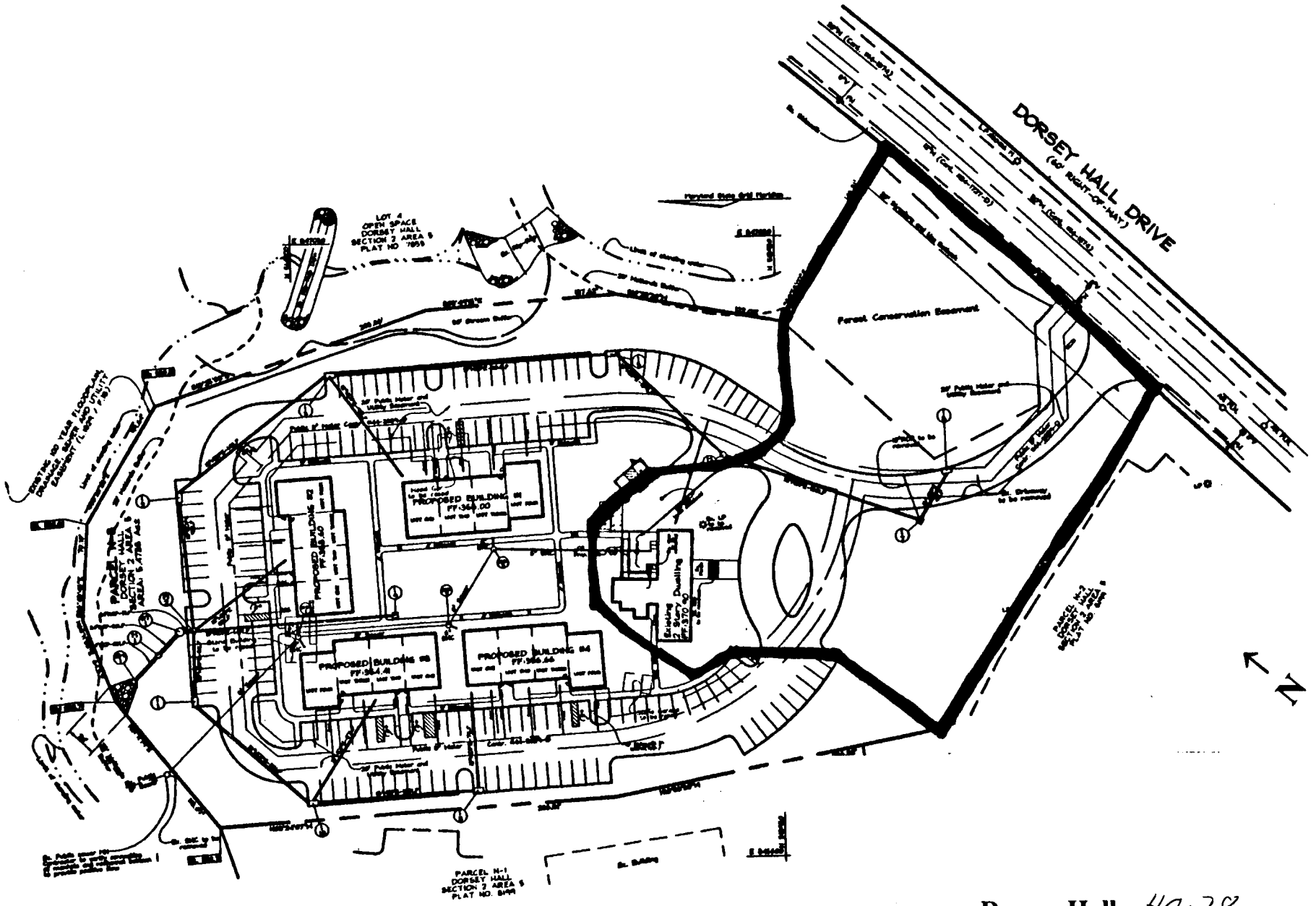
See footnotes

Verbal Boundary Description:

Boundaries are depicted as a heavy solid line on the attached map labeled National Register Boundary, drawn to the scale 1"=100'.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property represents the remnant of the property historically associated with the resource that retains integrity of setting, feeling, and association.



Dorsey Hall HO-28
Howard County, Maryland

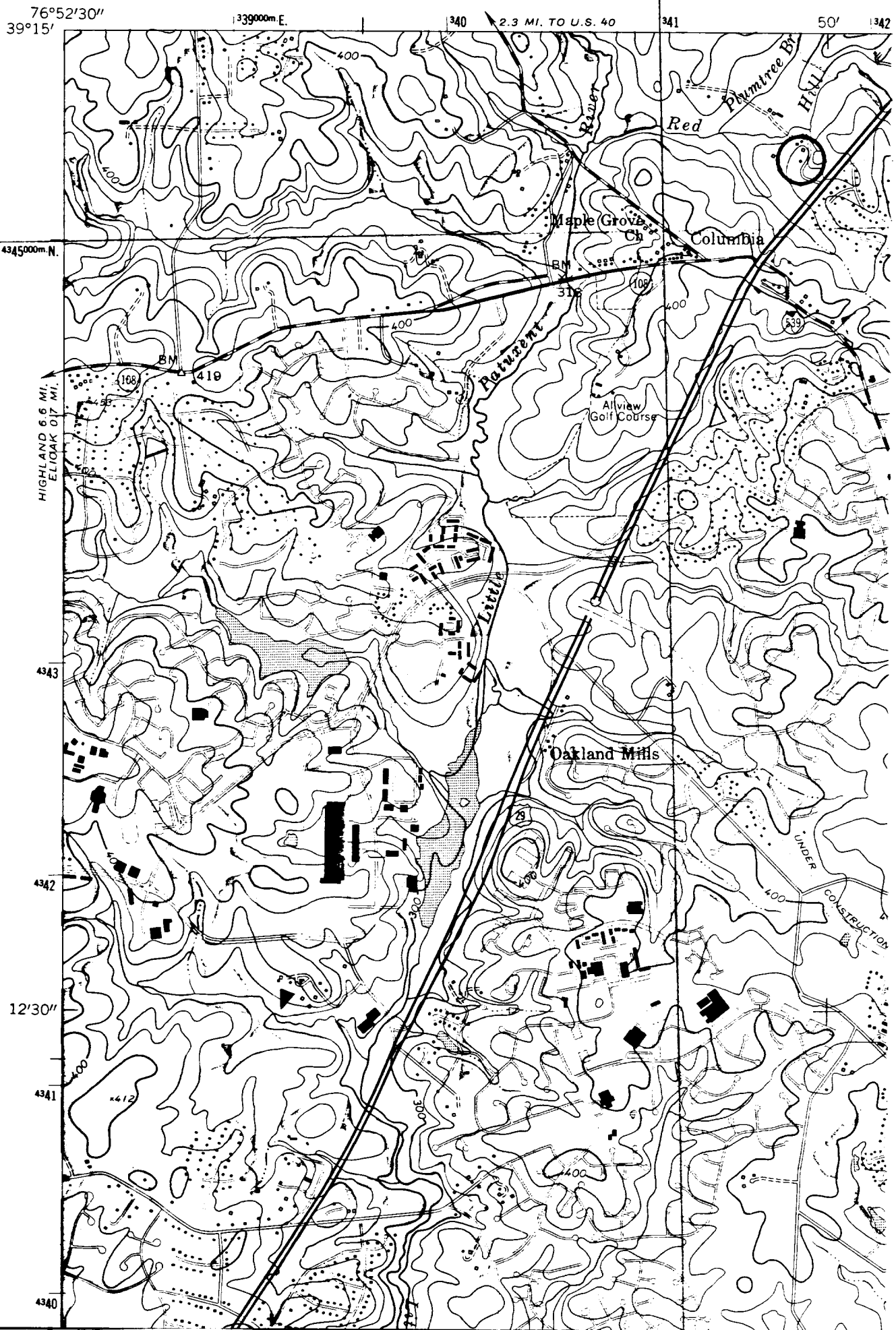
National Register Boundary
Scale: 1"=100'

5662 IV SW
(SYKESVILLE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

40-28
DORSEY
HALL

18-341660-
4345400



"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co, MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg. loc: MD SHPO
South elev.
1/17

"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co, MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg. loc: MD SHPO
South elev. - portico
2/17

"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co, MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg. loc: MD SHPO
East & North elevs
3/17

"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co, MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg. loc: MD SHPO
North & west elevs.
4/17

"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co, MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg. loc: MD SHPO
Passage, first story, UW northwest
5/17

"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co, MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg. loc: MD SHPO
East Rm - vw. southeast
6/17

"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co, MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg. loc: MD SHPO
South-center room. VW. Southwest
7/17

"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co, MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg. loc: MD SHPO
South-center room mantel
8/17

"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co, MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg loc: MD SHPO
North-center room - west elev.
9/17

"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co, MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg. loc: MD SHPO
West Room mantel
10/17

"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co., MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg loc: MD SHPO
West Rm mantel detail
11/17

"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co, MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg. loc: MD SHPO
Northeast Chamber - vw. northeast
12/17

"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co, MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg. loc: MD SHPO
Northeast Chamber mantel
13/17

"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co, MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg. loc: MD SHPO
Southeast Chamber- vw southeast
14/17

"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co, MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg. loc: MD SHPO
Center Chamber - VW. southwest
15/17

"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co, MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg loc: MD SHPO
Center Chamber mantel
16/17

"Dorsey Hall" HO-28
5100 Dorsey Hall Rd
Howard Co, MD
Photo: Ken Short
March 2001
Neg. loc: MD SHPO
Stair to attic - balustrade
17/17

HO-28

HO-28
Dorsey Hall
Ellicott City
Private

eighteenth and nineteenth centuries

DORSEY HALL FACES SOUTH ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF ROUTES 108 and 29. IT IS A BUILDING COMPLEX SPANNING OVER TWO CENTURIES, COMPOSED OF THREE MAJOR, CONNECTING, TWO AND A HALF STORY HIGH, SOUTH SECTIONS AND TWO LESSER ONE STORY HIGH, CONNECTING NORTH SECTIONS, WHICH FORM A "T" PLAN. IT HAS BEEN REFERRED TO AS THE "MYSTERY HOUSE", FOR ITS WEST WING IS BELIEVED BY SOME TO DATE FROM AS EARLY AS 1714, WHEN THE HONORABLE JOHN DORSEY WILLED "DORSEY'S SEARCH" TO HIS GRANDSON, JOHN DORSEY. THE PROPERTY LATER BECAME THE PROPERTY OF ELI DORSEY, WHO ON JANUARY 24, 1844 MARRIED MARY CROCKET. BOTH JOHN AND ELI DORSEY LIVED AT "DORSEY'S SEARCH" AT THIS TIME. ELI'S WILL OF 1789, PROBATED ON FEBRUARY 3, 1794 LEFT "DORSEY'S SEARCH", WHEREON MY FATHER (JOHN DORSEY) LIVED, CONTAINING 479 ACRES TO MY EXECUTORS...TO BE SOLD AND EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN CHILDREN OF MY TWO DAUGHTERS, ELIZABETH AND ELEANOR...." ELIZABETH AND HER HUSBAND, JUDGE RICHARD RIDGELY BECAME THE OWNERS OF THE HOME. THEY WERE MARRIED OCTOBER 3, 1798.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS DATE THE ORIGINAL BUILDING CIRCA 1760, SOMEWHAT LATER THAN THE 1714 DATE, WITH ADDITIONS MADE IN THE EARLY AND LATE 19th CENTURY. THIS BUILDING HAS RECENTLY BEEN RESTORED BY ITS PRESENT OWNER, HRD, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. EDWIN GRAMKOW. HOWARD RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IS NOW DEVELOPING THE NEW NEIGHBORHOOD OF DORSEY HALL, NORTH OF THIS HISTORIC SITE. THE BUILDING'S FUTURE USE IS, AT THIS TIME, UNDETERMINED. IT IS HOPED THAT IT WILL BE SOLD FOR A PRIVATE RESIDENCE AND USED AS A FOCAL POINT AROUND WHICH FINE, SINGLE FAMILY, DETACHED, DWELLING UNITS MAY BE PLANNED.

HO-28
DORSEY HALL
Private
Ellicott City

Dorsey Hall is a six bay wide, one room deep two and a half story high gabledrroof brick structure covered (laid in English garden wall brick bond) with stucco with wide brick central chimneys inset into its east and west walls, the latter of which lies flush with an earlier stone building, three bays wide, one room deep, two and a half stories high with a wide north chimney. A recent one story hipped roof north wing extends four bays out from the middle of the north wall and is used as a kitchen and a store room.

Dorsey Hall was built by Patuxent John Dorsey and his son Eli Dorsey who was on a committee in 1774 to represent and act for Ann Arundel County and city, to carry into execution the association agreed on by the American Continental Congress. Later owners were Elis' daughter Elizabeth who married Judge Richard Ridgely on October 3, 1798 and Caleb Dorsey who bought the house C. 1824.

The interior features wide random width floors, crystal chandeliers, original chair rails, wood work and mantles as well as a wide stiarcase which runs from the first floor to the attic.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-28
Savage Quad
District 2

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

Magi No. 1400285204

FOR NATIONAL REGISTER SUBMISSION

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Dorsey Hall

AND/OR COMMON: Dorsey Search

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 4658 Route #29 (Now on Dorsey Hall Drive)

CITY, TOWN: Ellicott City — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6th

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Howard

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
X DISTRICT	_PUBLIC	_OCCUPIED	_AGRICULTURE	_MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	_COMMERCIAL	_PARK
_STRUCTURE	_BOTH	_WORK IN PROGRESS	_EDUCATIONAL	_PRIVATE RESIDENCE
_SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	_ENTERTAINMENT	_RELIGIOUS
_OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	_GOVERNMENT	_SCIENTIFIC
	_BEING CONSIDERED	_YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		_NO	_MILITARY	X OTHER: Undetermined by Owner

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Att: Mickey Dunham
Howard Research & Development — Telephone #: 992-6066

STREET & NUMBER: 10275 Little Patuxent Parkway

CITY, TOWN: Columbia — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland 21044

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Tax Map 30, page 12 Hall of Records

Liber #: 493
Folio #: 602

STREET & NUMBER: Howard County Court House 3450 Courthouse Drive

CITY, TOWN: Ellicott City

STATE: Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE: 1978-1979 — _FEDERAL X STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN: 21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
GOOD	RUINS	X ALTERED	MOVED DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Dorsey Hall faces south on the northwest corner of Routes 108 and 29. It is a building complex, spanning over two centuries, composed of three major, connecting, two and a half story high, south sections, and two lesser, one story high, connecting north sections, which form a "T" plan. It has been referred to as the "mystery house", for its west wing is believed by some to date from as early as 1714, when the Honorable John Dorsey willed "Dorsey's Search" to his grandson, John Dorsey. Taken together, the house is a nine bay wide, one room deep, two and a half story high, stone and brick building, covered with stucco, resting on a fieldstone foundation, with three wide, stone chimnies and a four bay wide, one room deep, one story high, gabled roof (running north-south) north wing, creating a "T" plan.

THE WEST WING

The west wing of the complex, which is the oldest, is a three bay wide, two bay deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east-west) stone (covered with stucco) building, resting on a stone foundation, with wide, central, stone, interior chimney in the center of the building. Originally, this chimney wall was the north wall for the house. Later, the roof was raised and the north wall of this section extended to lie flush with the 1870 dining room addition. This north addition is occupied by the present staircase. The only old hardware is found in this wing, consisting of two ox locks.

SOUTH ELEVATION OF WEST WING

This wing, although smaller in scale, features three of the nine bays on this elevation. Fenestration for this section of the house is

proportionally scaled and vertically aligned, similar to the larger dining room and east wing. Windows are rectangular, double hung, and decorated with shutters. First floor windows hold nine-over-nine lights and second floor windows six-over-six. The entrance door is next to the fireplace on the north wall.

WEST ELEVATION OF WEST WING

This wall holds a first and second floor and attic window, all of which are rectangular, double-hung windows, holding, six-over-six lights. A similar, second floor, staircase window is set into its north bay.

NORTH ELEVATION OF WEST WING

The original north wall of the house held a first floor, west bay entrance with perhaps a window above.

INTERIOR OF WEST WING

The interior of the house once held one large first and second floor room. The first floor room is lighted by two south windows and a west window. A fire place is centered on its north wall.

This first floor room features a mantlepiece, whose architrave is decorated with deep, horizontal flutes, supported by two pilasters and wide, random width floors. It is not original but was moved from the living room in 1979, with its firebox rebuilt and a damper installed.

INTERIOR OF WEST WING (continued)

A north addition was added to the first floor of the original section, part of a dining room addition, which holds a staircase (running east-west). A rectangular entrance is placed in the east bay of its north wall.

The second floor room of the original section of the house is lighted by three south windows, with a west window on the staircase. It features new 3½" yellow pine floors, added in 1939±, with a chair rail,

running along the south wall at the window sill, connecting the south windows to one another, and a cross paneled door.

In the attic of this part of the house is a large cement block around the brick chimney with dates 25D. 1833 and the name T. Todd, along with baby foot prints. This building is certain to have been built much earlier than this date, which was inscribed on Christmas day, by whoever inhabited that part of the house, at that time. The wideness of the east wall, which is cut through on each floor and the attic by a door, leads to the belief, that, at this time, this part was totally separate from the rest of the house and perhaps utilized by servants, with a north or south door for entrance.

THE DINING ROOM ADDITION

The dining room addition is believed to have been built circa 1840-1870, on the west side of what is now the wide entrance hall, but then non-existant. The dining room door, entering now from the west wall of the hall, holds a patented lock, dated March 1st, 1870, which is the probable construction date of this wing. A similar lock occurs on the door from the living room into the hall, which was probably added at the same time. The dining room (see Plan, Section D) is lighted by two, south rectangular, double-hung windows, with six-over-six lights. The mantle piece, not original, on the west wall of the dining room, features an elongated horizontal oval on the lintel of the mantle piece, and deep concave fluting on the pilasters, decorating each side of the mantle piece. The random width floors are slightly narrower than those of the all and living room. The mantle was boxed in by plywood surrounding it and the firebox made smaller in 1937-40. All the hardware was replaced with 1937-40 brass knobs. The only 18th century locks are two on the second

floor of the original west wing. A door on the east side of this wall enters into a small storage-butler's pantry, which runs along the exterior north wall of the house and is lighted by a window, similar to those described, which is set into the west bay of this section. An entrance in the east bay now leads into the kitchen wing.

THE KITCHEN WING

This single kitchen room, constructed of stone, was added at the same time as the dining room wing. The additions to this kitchen were put on in 1937-1940. They comprise a maid's room and bath and a mud room.

THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE DINING ROOM ADDITION

Above, on the second floor of the dining room addition, is a single large room, lighted by two rectangular, double-hung, north & south windows, holding nine-over-six lights. As one enters this area from the west side of the hall, one passes through a narrow passage, with a bath to the north and a large storage area to the south.

The room features a central wooden mantle piece, similar in character to those in the second floor bedrooms of the east wing and random width floors, slightly narrower than those in the east wing.

THE ATTIC

The attic holds a large, central cedar closet and is used primarily for storage. It is lighted by a dormer window on the south elevation, which is similar to those in the south wing, but is a fifteen-over-six light, double-hung window, of earlier construction than the casement windows of the east wing. This room also has an east brick wall, which exposes the English garden wall brick bond of the west wall of the living room hall, east wing addition.

THE EAST WING

The east wing is believed to have been constructed circa 1880±. It is a four bay wide, one room deep, two and a half story high, gabled roof (running east-west) brick (laid in common bond) house, resting on a stone foundation, with wide, brick chimney inset into its east wall (upon which now runs a central exterior, brick chimney for the furnace -1940±) Twogabled roof, dormer windows are set into the roof line on its north and south elevations. They hold rectangular, ten-ten light casement windows, surmounted by five light, roman arched transoms, inset into the broken pediment of the gable, which is held by two flat pilasters, topped by capitals.

The whole portico for the main entrance door was added at a later date. This entrance is placed in the fourth east bay of the south facade. It is flanked by slender doric 3/4 columns, covered by this new, gabled roof portico (1940) whose new brick floor is laid in basket weave, brick bond, and approached by five new brick steps. Long, new benches on the east and west connect the two full doric columns, which support each side of the portico, with flat pilasters on each side of the door. The portico is decorated with a closed pediment. Sixteen vertical side lights flank the entrance door, surmounted by an eighteen light, tripartite transom.

THE FOUNDATION BENEATH THE EAST WING

The east wing's first floor is held by sawn, supporting joists in the basement. The stone foundation walls are brick filled, in and around the doors and cellar windows, a similar method to that found in Belmont in Elkridge. These stone bearing walls, run from the foundation on up to the third floor, and occur between the living room and the hall and the dining and the hall, ending on the west, with a double wall,

added when the wing was put on, between the west wall of the dining room and the east wall of the original stone structure.

THE HALL OF THE EAST WING

This main entrance enters the very wide, one bay wide hall, which runs north-south, the depth of the building and features wide, random width floors. A very wide, new, spiral staircase, runs along the west wall of the hall, from first to third floors. It holds new, square balusters (1940) except those on the third floor, which are original and has new, decorated, scrolled, stair panels. This hall holds four entrance doors; the main entrance, previously described, a north entrance door, an east entrance into the large living room and a west entrance into the dining room addition , which may or may not have been an exterior door, at one time.

THE LIVING ROOM OF EAST WING

The living room is lighted by three tall north and south windows, and takes up the three east bays of the building. It features wide, random width floors, a new central, mantlepiece (1979) on its east wall. All the mantels, except that in the west wing, are new, taken out of the house along with the staircase, balusters , rails, knewels (some risers and treads in mid-1930's when owned by Mr. Rogers). A rectangular, open bible and cross paneled, entrance door on its west wall leads into the hall. The windows feature deeply set paneling into which fit interior shutters. Beneath these windows are paneled insets. Plaster crown molding is also found in this room. The new wooden mantle-piece (1979) is a very fine one, featuring a sunburst pattern, inset into a central block, which is flanked by fluted pilasters, decorating the architrave. The entire fire-

place box was rebuilt to its original size in 1979, when the new mantle was installed.

THE BEDROOMS OF THE EAST WING

The second floor of the east wing holds two bedrooms on the east side of the wide hall. They are lighted by two north and south windows respectively and feature wide, random width floors and identical mantlepieces. These mantlepieces reflect, more simply, the general design of the first floor mantlepiece with its central block and end capitals for the pilasters, which flank it. These mantles, however, feature flat pilasters, rather than fluted and a central tapered, unadorned block for the architrave, flanked by no fluting, as we find in the downstairs mantle.

THE ATTIC OF THE EAST WING

The attic of the east wing features one large room, over the two bedrooms, lighted by one north and south dormer, ten-ten light casement window , surmounted by five light, roman arched transoms.

CONCLUSION

The entire house is in excellent condition and has just been completely renovated and restored by Howard Research and Development, under the direction of Mr. Edwin Gramkow. Any woodwork, which was missing, was installed and milled to match existing woodwork. The balustrade of the staircase was found to have been of 1930 vintage from first to second floor, with remnants of an original, similar balustrade on the third floor, which could have come from the west wing, the original two room, 18th century house wing. The building has been completely rewired and new plumbing added as necessary.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

HO-28
Savage Quad
District 2

PERIOD

__PREHISTORIC
__1400-1499
__1500-1599
__1600-1699
__1700-1799
__1800-1899
__1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
X ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
__AGRICULTURE
X ARCHITECTURE
__ART
__COMMERCE
__COMMUNICATIONS
X COMMUNITY PLANNING
__CONSERVATION
__ECONOMICS
__EDUCATION
__ENGINEERING
__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
__INDUSTRY
__INVENTION
__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
__LAW
__LITERATURE
__MILITARY
__MUSIC
__PHILOSOPHY
__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
__RELIGION
__SCIENCE
__SCULPTURE
__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__THEATER
__TRANSPORTATION
__OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1760/1870/1880 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dorsey Hall is a good example of stone and brick vernacular architecture of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in Howard County, Maryland.[1] It is associated with the family of the Honorable John Dorsey, who built Troy, and his grandson, John Dorsey, who is reputed to have constructed a house on this land, called Dorsey Hall, circa 1714.[2] Although, constructed in four to five sections, over a span of over two hundred years, the building presents an unparalled unity, which has been realized only through the restraint and care, which have prevailed in the design and execution of those additions.[3] At one time it was one of Howard County's finest farms. Today a major part of its acreage is under planned development by Howard Research and Development for the new Columbia Village of Dorsey Hall, which is named for this Howard County Landmark.[4]

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

1. Although a building is reputed to have been constructed here, circa 1714, architectural historians date the original section circa 1760. The south facade of Dorsey Hall features the balance and symmetry, so prevalent in Howard County vernacular architecture, with fenestration vertically aligned and proportionally scaled. Although, the west side of the building ppears small to us, today, the construction of such a building circa 1760 in Howard County would have been palatial. First, it was constructed of

stone (with a later brick addition), rather than log, and secondly, its proportions and scale were carefully planned and executed to create balance and form. Its exterior was stuccoed in 1937-40.

2. Dorsey Hall is referred to as the "Mystery House", for its west wing is believed by some to date from as early as 1714, while others believe its early section to date from circa 1760. Dorsey Hall is built on land patented in 1695 by one Honorable John Dorsey as Dorsey's Search. This is the Honorable John who came early to Howard County and built Troy, one of our National Register Landmarks. In his 1714 will he left Dorsey's Search to his grandson, John Dorsey, son of his deceased son Edward. Patuxent John Dorsey, so called, is reputed to have built Dorsey Hall and some local historians believe the stone building dates from this period. This fact is further substantiated by testimony given by Dr. Caleb Dorsey, who is the 25th Caleb Dorsey, descended from the Honorable John Dorsey and responsible author of Howard County's land grant map. Whether built in 1714 or some fifty years later, Dorsey Hall is a building complex, spanning over two centuries, composed of three major, connecting, two and a half story high, south sections and two lesser one story high, connecting north sections, which form a "T" plan. The property later became the property of Eli Dorsey, who on January 24, 1844 married Mary Crocket. Both John, and Eli Dorsey lived somewhere on "Dorsey's Search". Eli's will of 1789, probated on February 3, 1794 left "Dorsey's Search", whereon my Fatner (John Dorsey) lived, containing 479 acres to my executors. . .to be sold and equally divided between the children of my two daughters, Elizabeth and Eleanor...." Elizabeth and her husband, Judge Richard Ridgely became the owners of the home and were married October 3, 1798. It is believed by some that they added the dining room addition, although those who have

studied the construction of the house date it circa 1870. This wing is the same height and general scale as the brick east wing, but is found to have a double-hung, roman arched, attic window in the dormer, rather than the casement windows of similar design, found in the dormers of the east wing.

In the will of Judge Richard Ridgely in 1824, he ordered the place sold. Caleb Dorsey, great-great uncle to Dr. Caleb Dorsey of Baltimore and Howard County, bought the southern part of the land with the house, while Charles Worthington Dorsey, his brother bought the northern portion of the land. Dorsey Hall remained in the hands of members of the Dorsey Family until 1918, when Eugenia Rogers Smith, et al conveyed "Dorsey Hall" to Morris Shapiro. (106-171, Howard County Land Records). In 1968 it was acquired by Columbia Industrial Development Corporation, its present owners.

3. This five sectioned building is an unusually unified composition, with alteration and additions made with care and restraint. The west wing of Dorsey Hall is smaller in scale than the rest of the building, having had at one time, a lower roof, and being a more narrow building. Two alterations were made: 1) Its roof was raised and 2) a north addition constructed to deepen the building. These two alterations created a more balanced building composition with its neighborning dining room addition and later brick east wing. The heightened roof line brought the lower gable more in line with the dining room addition. These two alterations to the original stone building are believed to have been made at the same time as the dining room addition. The later 19th century livingroom-hall, east wing also blends with the building's two previously constructed sections. This is particularly true of the three east end bays of this wing, which repeat and reflect, though larger in scale, the three east bays

of the original stone west wing.

4. Dorsey Hall now forms a focal point for Columbia's ninth and newest neighborhood, officially opened on April 12, 1980 and named "Dorsey Hall" after this Howard County landmark, which remained for over two centuries under the ownership of the Dorsey family, early settlers of Howard County, Maryland. Thirteen models of very large, traditional style homes, offered by six builders, are planned for this area. Some 388 single family homes are planned to be built on some 675 acres. They will be some of the most prestigious homes offered in Columbia, built on 1/3 to 1/2 acre lots. Six additional builders will have had model homes completed by the summer of 1980. The cost of these homes range from $100,000 to $200,000.

In addition, twenty custom home sites are also for sale in the area. The present owners of Dorsey Hall, in planning this neighborhood, have attempted to reflect the grace and tradition of this building by 1) restoring it and 2) planning single family detached dwelling units in this neighborhood, rather than an apartment and town house development.

Savage Quad
District 2

NO-28

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dorsey, Maxwell J., Jean Muir Dorsey & Nannie Ball Nimro. The Dorsey Family.
Stein, C.F., Jr., History of Howard County, Maryland. Baltimore, 1972 pp. 113, 302
Warfield, J.D. Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland Baltimore, 1972.
Interviews with Dr. Caleb Dorsey, and Mrs. Eleanor Rogers Brownley, of the same Dorsey family who built Dorsey Hall.
Maryland Census - 1790 Baltimore 1972
Maryland Historical Magazine XII, 9 p. 175A
Maryland Marriages 1634-1777 Baltimore, 1976, p. 53
Anne Arundel County - Wills, J.G. No. 2 Folio 402
Patents 22, folio 346
Patents C, No. 5 folio 352
Private research of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Gramkow uncovered during the restoration of Dorsey Hall which was supervised by Mr. Edwin Gramkow

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 25 Acres
Negotiable

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 30 - Parcel 12
Also see Attachment 2 for recommended acreage.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 493 Folio 602

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
Maryland	Howard
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Cleora Barnes Thompson, A.I.C.P., Projects Archivist

ORGANIZATION — DATE
Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

STREET & NUMBER — TELEPHONE
3430 Court House Drive — 992-2357

CITY OR TOWN — STATE
Ellicott City — Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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.

1400285104

HO-28
District 2

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Dorsey Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC: Dorsey's Search

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 4658 Route #29

CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City

STATE: Maryland | COUNTY: Howard

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☒ District ☐ Building	☐ Public	Public Acquisition:	☒ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site ☐ Structure	☒ Private	☐ In Process	☐ Unoccupied	☒ Restricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being Considered	☐ Preservation work in progress	☐ Unrestricted
				☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☒ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious	Open Space	
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Columbia Industrial Development Corporation (Atten. Robert Young) 992-6086

STREET AND NUMBER: The Rouse Company/ 10275 Little Patuxent Parkway

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia, | STATE: Maryland | 21044

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER: Howard County Courthouse 3450 Courthouse Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City | STATE: Maryland | 21043

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Tax Map 30, p. 12 493/602

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1977 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis | STATE: Maryland | 21401

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Dorsey Hall is a nine bay wide, one room deep two and a half story brick (laid in English garden wall brick bond) covered with stucco structure built in five time frames, facing south with entrance in the fourth east bay. It has a four bay wide one room deep single floor north wing. Its main entrance is flanked by slender doric 3/4 columns covered by a gabled roof portico whose brick floor is laid in basket weave brick bond, and approached by five brick steps. Long benches on the east and west connect the two full doric columns which support each side of the portico with the pilasters on each side of the door of the south wall. The portico is decorated with a closed pediment.

The house at one time consisted of only the west three bays which was a one room, two story stone and brick house covered with stucco with gable roof running east-west and central chimney on the north wall with an entrance door probably west of the chimney or located in the central bay which now holds no aperture on the first floor. A clean break in the wide random width floor on the east side of the fireplace leads to the possibility of an early one way staircase at one time located on the east side of the fireplace leading to the single room above. In the attic of this part of the house is a large cement block around the brick chimney with dates 25D. 1833 and the name T. Todd along with baby foot prints. This building is certain to have been built much earlier than this date, which was inscribed on Christman day by whoever inhabited that part of the house at that time. The wideness of the east wall which is cut through on each floor and the attic by a door leads to the belief that at this time the house was totally separate from the remainder of the house and perhaps utilized by servants with a north or south door for entrance. Another date of August 24, 1833 also appears on the face of the cement block. The north wall of this house holds a first, second and third floor rectangular window with six-over-six lites and wooden sills. This part of the building was built about 1790 by Ely Dorsey, who later bequeathed it to Deborah and her husband Judge Richard Ridgely. The date 1833 appearing on the cement block of the east room may have been put there by either a slave or overseer to the property for the scale of the building, the woodwork, and wide random width plank floor bely an earlier date. The east side of the house (i.e. the first floor living room with two bedrooms above was constructed in the early 1700's) Its Georgian mantles (one in the living room centered into the east wall, and two others on the second floor centered into the east walls of each of the two bedrooms, the woodwork,as well as its wide planked floors and hand hewn supporting I beam in the basement give evidence of an early construction date. Very soon after the living room was constructed, the central hall was added. The stone walls of the basement, foundation have brick filled in around the doors and are used as bearing walls which go all the way up to the third floor. These bearing walls occur between the livingroom and the hall, the hall and the dining room, and a double wall between the west wall of the dining room and the east wall of the original stone structure, which lead to the belief that this east room may have been the original kitchen with quarters above for servants.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The dining room was probably added in 1870 for one of its doors holds a patented lock dated March 1st, 1870. A similar lock occurs on the door from the living room into the hall which was probably added at the same time. The mantle pieces on the west wall of the dining room and the second floor sitting room are Federal in style, featuring elongated horizontal ovals on the lintel of the mantle piece and deep concave fluting on the pilasters decorating each side of the mantle piece. The randam width floors are slightly narrower than those of the hall and living room. It appears that originally this section was built to reach to the east wall of the original section with no interior door from one to the other. At this same time (c.1870) an addition was made to the early west wing to provide for a larger staircase and bring the north wall of the west wing flush with the north wall of the east wing. A relatively recent four bay wide, one story high, one room deep hipped roof, north wing extends from the north wall of the dining room. It holds a storage hall with stair case to basement as well as a two bay wide kitchen and two bay wide store room, once used perhaps as a maids quarters.

The whole condition of the house is excellent, containing three outstanding teardrop crystal chandeliers put together with silver wire. Fenestration for Dorsey Hall is mainly rectangular (the three south dormers have round arched six lite transoms featuring three Gothic arches surmounting rectangular casement windows with 10=10 lites), proportionally scaled and vertically alligned. Section B (see Plan) holds three north and south first floor double-hung rectangular windows holding four-over-four lites and decorated with green shutters, with three north and south second floor double-hung rectangular windows holding nine-over-six lites.

The attic holds a single bedroom with north and south rectangular casement windows with 10=10 lites.

The plan for the entire house is double pile organization with the central hall (see Plan, Section C) holding a stairway which runs all the way to the attic with first floor north and south entrance doors. The south door is a rectangular open bible and cross paneled door surmounted by an 18 lite transom and flanked by 16 lites.

The dining room (see Plan, Section D) has a south wall holding rectangular double-hung windows with six-over-six lites and a north door which at one time led outside but now leads into the single story rather recently constructed kitchen wing. (see Plan, Section E) This wall also holds a north window with six-over-six lites. Above on the second floor is a sitting room with two rectangular double-hung north & south windows holding nine-over-six lites. A third floor south casement window with ten-ten lites is located in the attic which is used for storage. This room has an east brick wall which exposes the English garden wall brick bond of the west wall of the original house. The kitchen wing is a one story high north wing with four rectangular double-hung windows with one-over-one lites on the east wall, none on the north wall and three similar west windows and west entrance door in the second south bay. This kitchen door has four lites in its upper section and leads into an enclosed porch which holds a rectangular double-hung window holding six-over-six lites on its west wall, a similar south door leading into a courtyard formed by the west wall of the kitchen and the north wall of the dining room and early stone structure, and a north door which leads into

what is presently a store room but is now used for storage. The interior of the house features cross or open bible and cross paneled doors, original crown molding, and chair rails with wide random width floors in the hall and east of the hall and narrower wide random width floors west of the hall.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century
- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century
- ☒ 18th Century
- ☐ 19th Century
- ☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* Circa 1714, 1744, 1798

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☐ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other *(Specify)*
☒ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☒ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Military	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☐ Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dorsey Hall is built on land patented in 1695 by the Honorable John Dorsey as Dorsey's Search. This is the Honorable John who came early to Howard County and built Troy, one of our National Register Landmarks. In his 1714 will he left this tract of land to his grandson, John Dorsey, son of his deceased son Edward. Patuxent John Dorsey, so called, is reputed to have built Dorsey Hall. The stone building may date from this period as well as the living room and hall. This fact is substantiated by testimony given by Dr. Caleb Dorsey who is the 25th Caleb Dorsey descended from the Honorable John Dorsey and responsible author of Howard County's land grant map.

Patuxent John Dorsey deeded Dorseys Search to his son Eli previous to his death, and had other children to whom he also deeded land. Eli married Mary Crockett January 24, 1744. It may also be that the east side of the house was constructed at this time circa 1744, rather than 1714. The will of Eli, however, refers to the fact that the house was the home of Patuxent John Dorsey which would verify a circa 1714 date. The wide planks of the floor were common at this time, and the Georgian mantles in this part of the house representative of this period. Eli later married Deborah Dorsey and had Caleb, Elizabeth, Eleanor and Amos. In 1794 Eli died and left this tract of land with the house to his daughter Elizabeth and mentions in his will that this was the home of his father, Patuxent John Dorsey. Since Patuxent John Dorsey held acres of land it is not unreasonable to assume a house of rather grand scale. The living room and hall could date circa 1714, and the dining room may later have been added by Elizabeth and her husband Judge Richard Ridgely who were married October 3, 1798.

The Federal style came in after the revolution of 1776 and the mantles in this part of the house are representative of this period. The floors are slightly narrower random width than those in the hall and living room but still quite wide and bespeak early construction. Locks with a patent number of March 1, 1870 are in this room as well as an outstanding crystal chandelier put together with silver wire. Similar ones appear in the hall and living room. Should this date of 1870 be taken for the construction of this room it was constructed by others much later than the hall and living room.

In the will of Judge Richard Ridgely in 1824, he ordered the place sold. Caleb Dorsey, great-great uncle to Dr. Caleb Dorsey of Baltimore and Howard County bought the southern part of the land with the house while Charles Worthington Dorsey, his brother bought the northern portion which went up to

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HO-28

the Old Brick House on the Pike.

Caleb Dorsey lived there at Dorsey Hall until his death in 1869. Presently part of a tract of land now referred to as the Mandel Tract and owned by a subsiduary of the Rouse Company, it has been proposed for development.

Associated with the early leaders of Howard County, Patuxent John Dorsey, Eli Dorsey and Judge Ridgely, Dorsey Hall is of outstanding significance and has been designated with its surrounding grounds as a critical area of State concern. It should also be considered for inclusion into the National Register Of Historic Places, and any future local landmark ordinances.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stein, C.F., Jr. History of Howard County, Md. Baltimore, 1972, pp. 113,302, 248, 344

Warfield, J.D. Founders of Ann Arundel and Howard Counties, Md. Baltimore,1972.
Interviews with Dr. Caleb Dorsey, and Mrs Eleanor Rogers Brownley the same Dorsey family who built Dorsey Hall.
The Citizens Advisory Group, the Office of Planning and Zoning. State Critical Areas Planning Program Howard County. Oct. 26, 1976, Dorsey Hall.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUOE AND LONGITUOE COOROINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY							OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COOROINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUOE			LONGITUDE				LATITUOE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Please see Tax Map 30-p.12 493/602 366.15 acres

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION
Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET AND NUMBER:
3450 Courthouse Drive

CITY OR TOWN:
Ellicott City

STATE
Maryland

21043

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

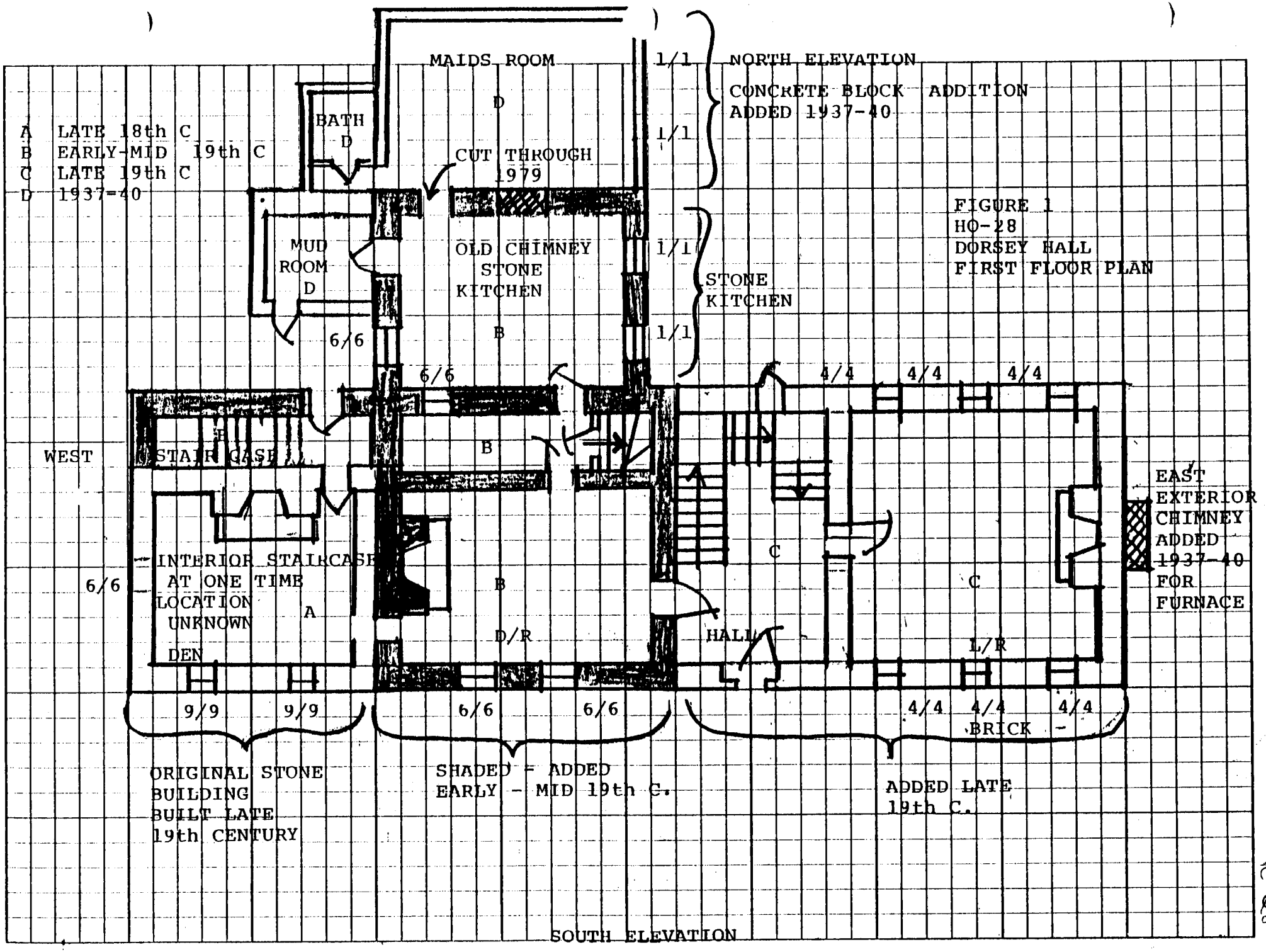
TITLE SEARCH

HO-28....DORSEY HALL

Prepared by Cleora B. Thompson

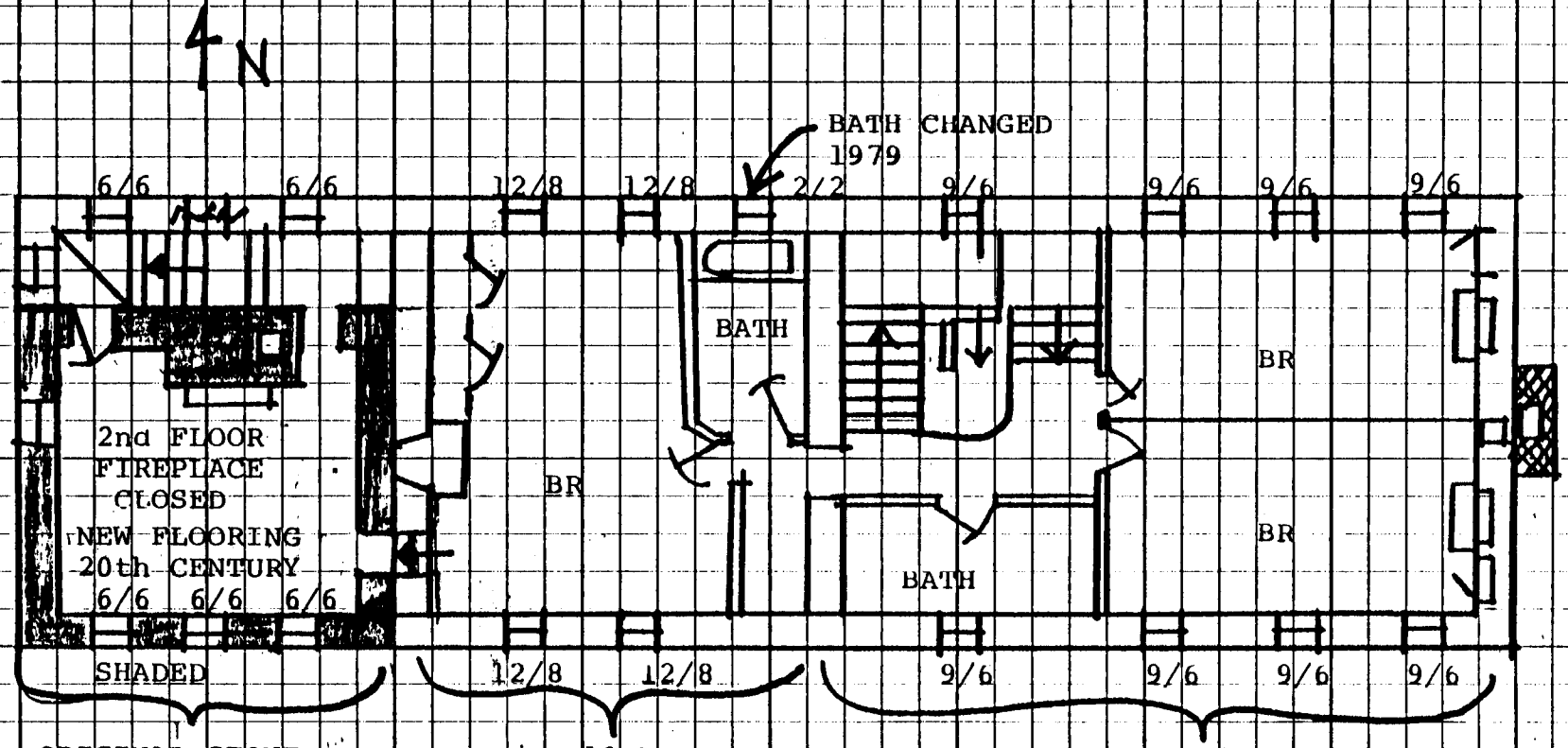
* * * *

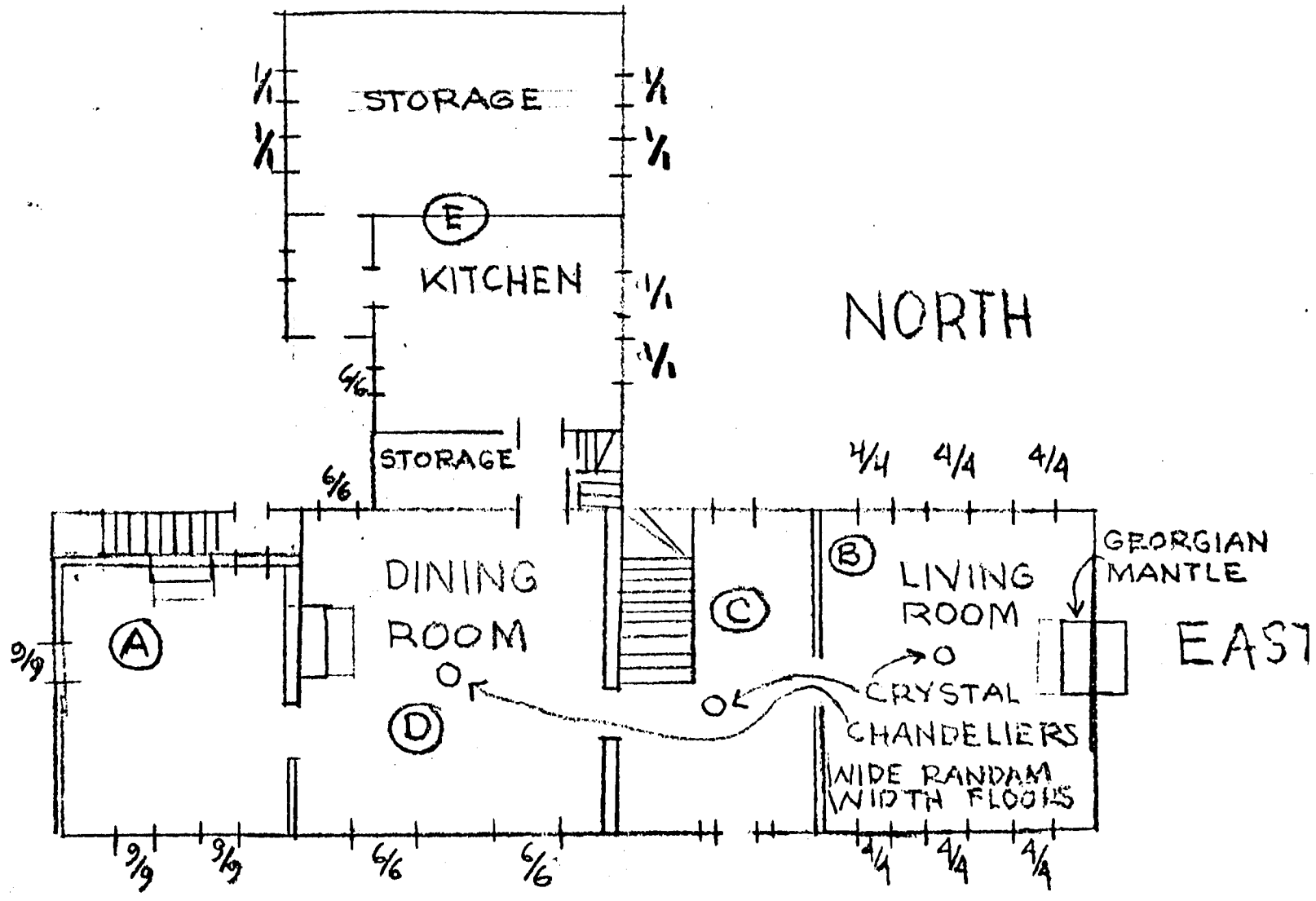
DATE	LIBER-FOLIO	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	TRANSACTION
1 Aug 1968	493/602	The Gudelsky Co.	Columbia Industrial Development Corporation	Deed 366.15A. T.M.30 P 12 Dorsey Hall
July 21, 1934	BM 149-341	Morris & Rebecca Shapiro	Royden Ablunt and Willie May	Deed to "Dorsey Hall" 382½ Acres
Oct 21, 1918	106-171	Eugenia Rogers Smith et al	Morris Shapiro	Deed to 382½ A P/O land in deed of 1914
Aug 8, 1914	97-463	John Long, Sherrif	Eugenia Rogers Smith, et al	500A. for $2,730.(
Mar 3, 1881	43-141	Achsah R. Dorsey et al	R. Dorsey Rogers	Deed to 2 tracts 1 - "Dorsey Hall" 2 - 35A Hammonds Inheritance for $25,000.
		The home farm of the late Caleb Dorsey of Caleb known as "Dorsey Hall"		
30 Dec, 1828	14-298 of Anne Arundel County	Charles W. Dorsey	Caleb Dorsey	Deed to "Dorsey Hall"
17 June, 1846	1-93	Ephraim Gaither	Caleb Dorsey	Deed to 35A "Hammond's Inheritance" $2,119-1/8


A LATE 18th C
B EARLY-MID 19th C
C LATE 19th C
D 1937-40
MAIDS ROOM
D
BATH
D
CUT THROUGH
1979
MUD
ROOM
D
OLD CHIMNEY
STONE
KITCHEN
B
6/6
6/6
1/1
1/1
1/1
1/1
NORTH ELEVATION
CONCRETE BLOCK ADDITION
ADDED 1937-40
STONE
KITCHEN
4/4
4/4
4/4
FIGURE 1
HO-28
DORSEY HALL
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
WEST
STAIR CASE
B
EAST
EXTERIOR
CHIMNEY
ADDED
1937-40
FOR
FURNACE
INTERIOR STAIRCASE
AT ONE TIME
LOCATION
UNKNOWN
A
6/6
C
C
B
D/R
HALL
L/R
DEN
9/9
9/9
6/6
6/6
4/4
4/4
4/4
BRICK
ORIGINAL STONE
BUILDING
BUILT LATE
19th CENTURY
SHADED = ADDED
EARLY - MID 19th C.
ADDED LATE
19th C.
SOUTH ELEVATION

HO-28

FIGURE 2
HO-28
DORSEY HALL
SECOND FLOOR





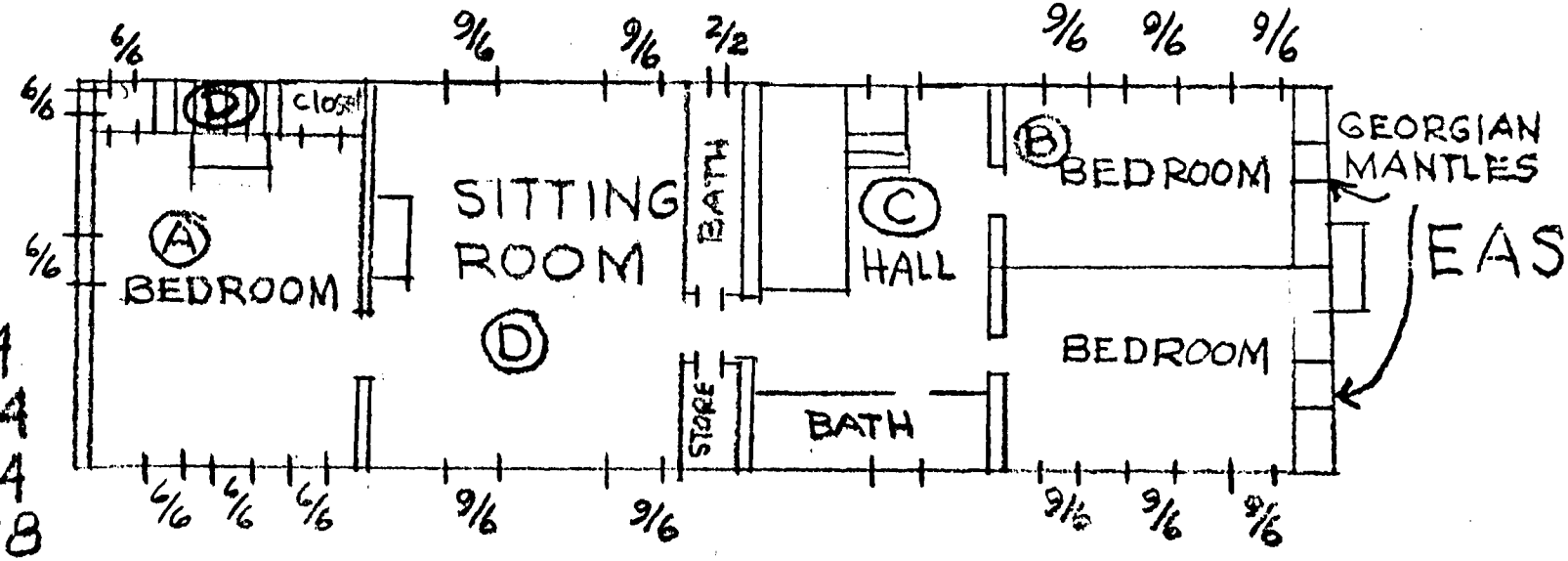
A c1714
B c1714
C c1744
D c1798
E

DORSEY HALL PLAN

1ST FLOOR

NO-28

NORTH



WEST

A c. 1714
B c. 1714
C c. 1744
D c. 1798

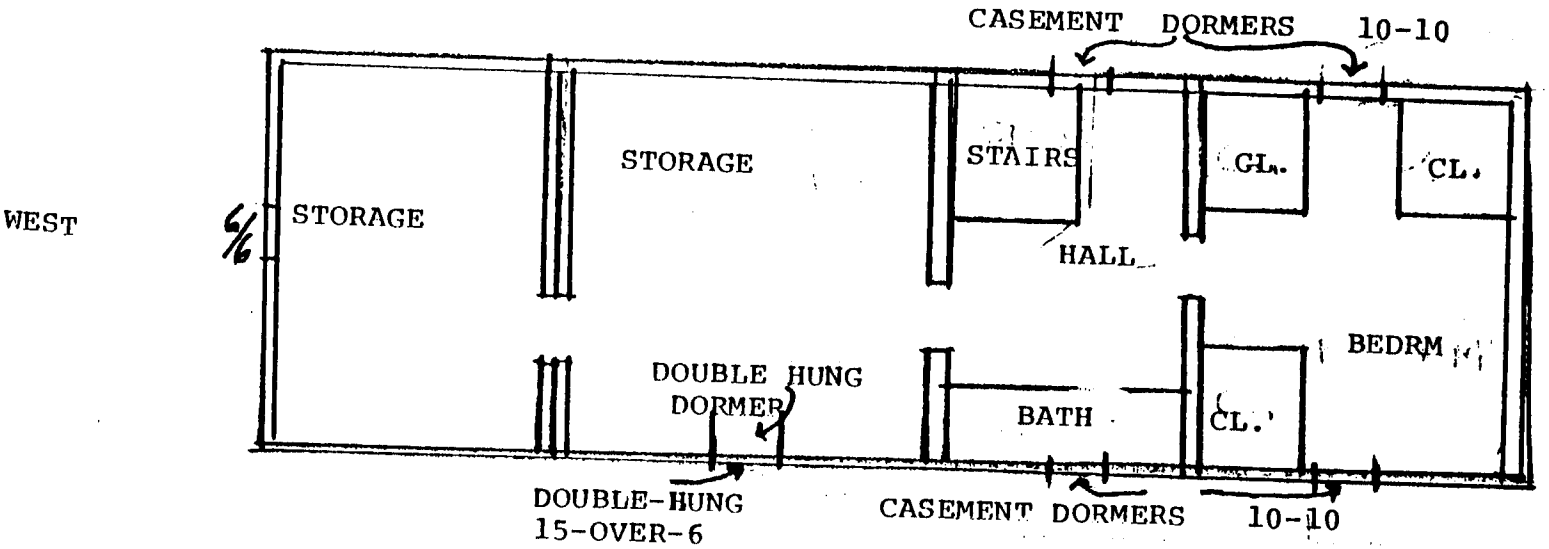
SOUTH

DORSEY HALL PLAN

2ND FLOOR

NO-28

NORTH



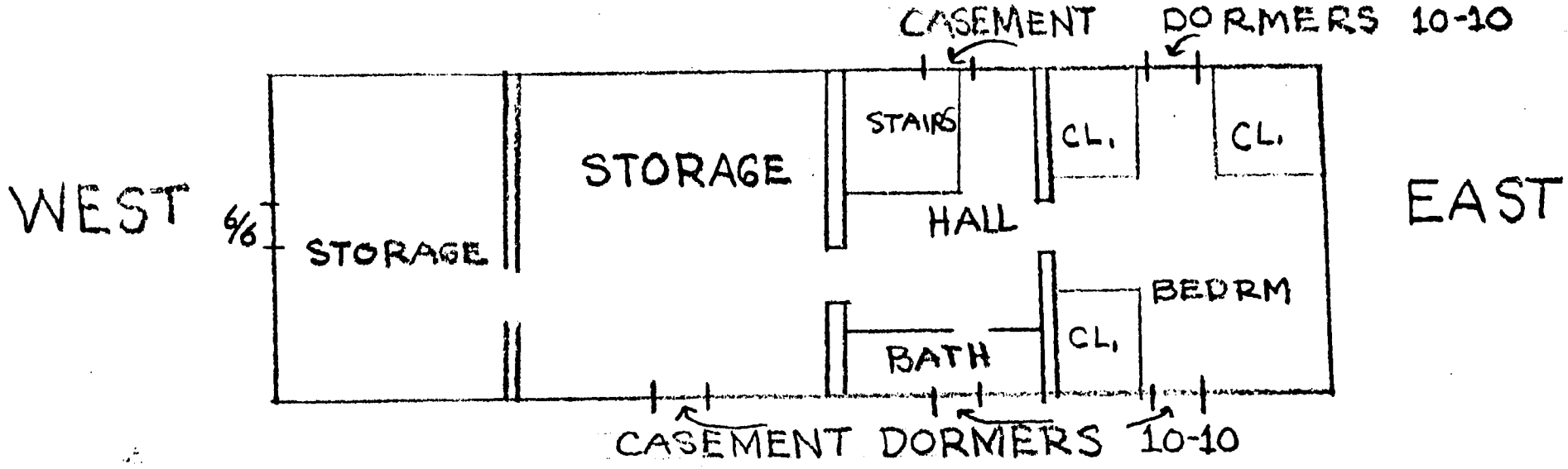
WEST

EAST

SOUTH ELEVATION

FIGURE 3
HO-28
DORSEY HALL
ATTIC PLAN

NORTH

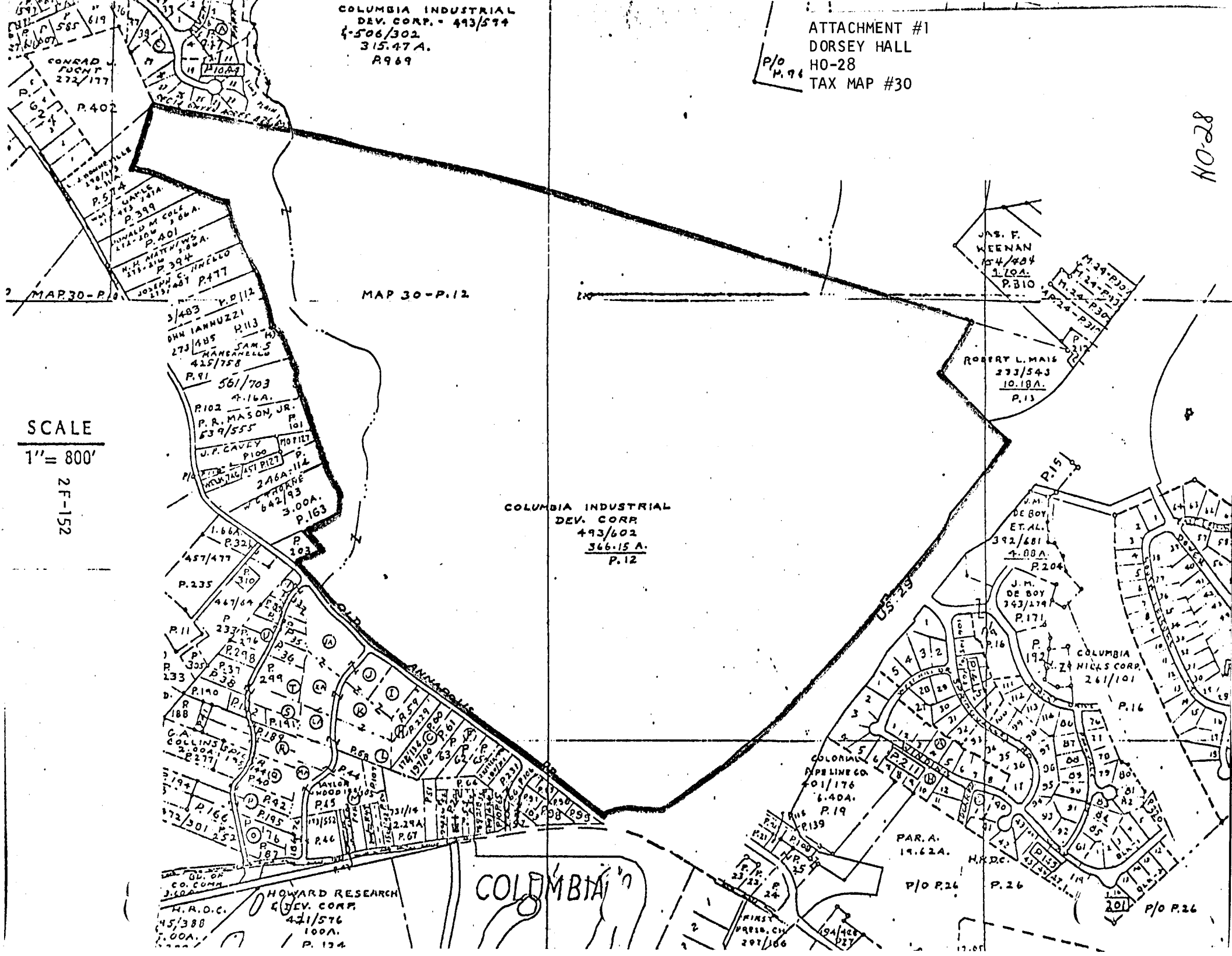


SOUTH

DORSEY HALL PLAN

ATTIC

NO-38


ATTACHMENT #1
DORSEY HALL
HO-28
TAX MAP #30
SCALE
1" = 800'
2F-152
COLUMBIA INDUSTRIAL DEV. CORP. - 493/594
L-506/302
315.47 A.
P.969
P/O P.96
MAP 30 - P.12
COLUMBIA INDUSTRIAL DEV. CORP
493/602
366.15 A.
P.12
COLUMBIA
HOWARD RESEARCH & DEV. CORP
421/576
100A.
P.134
CONRAD J. FUCHT
272/177
P.402
P.399
P.401
P.394
P.477
P.112
P.113
P.91
561/703
4.16A.
P.102
P.R. MASON, JR.
639/555
P.101
P.100
P.127
246A.-112
P.163
P.321
457/477
P.235
P.310
467/64
P.233
P.298
P.299
P.37
P.38
P.190
P.188
P.191
P.195
P.92
P.166
301/252
P.76
P.187
P.46
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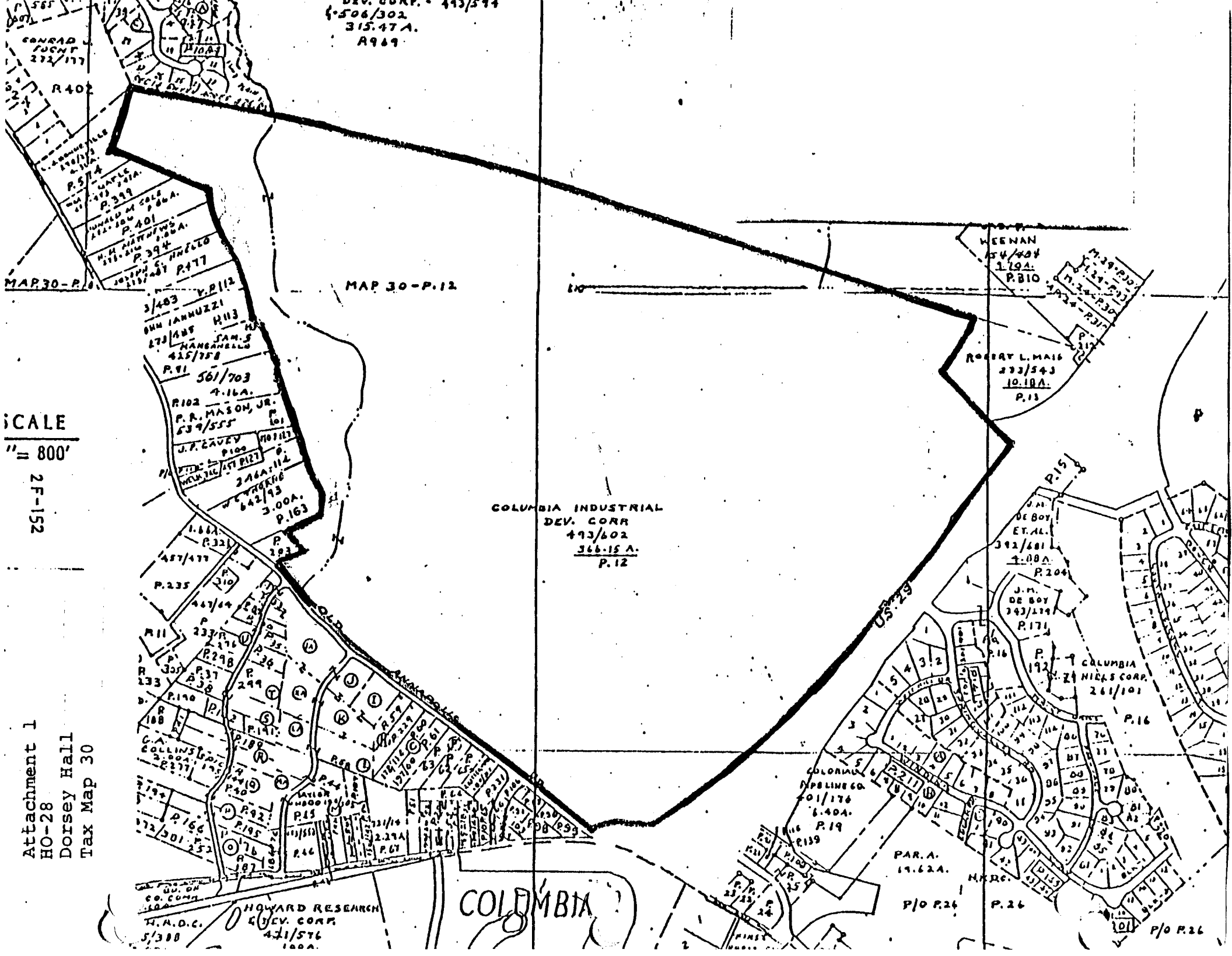
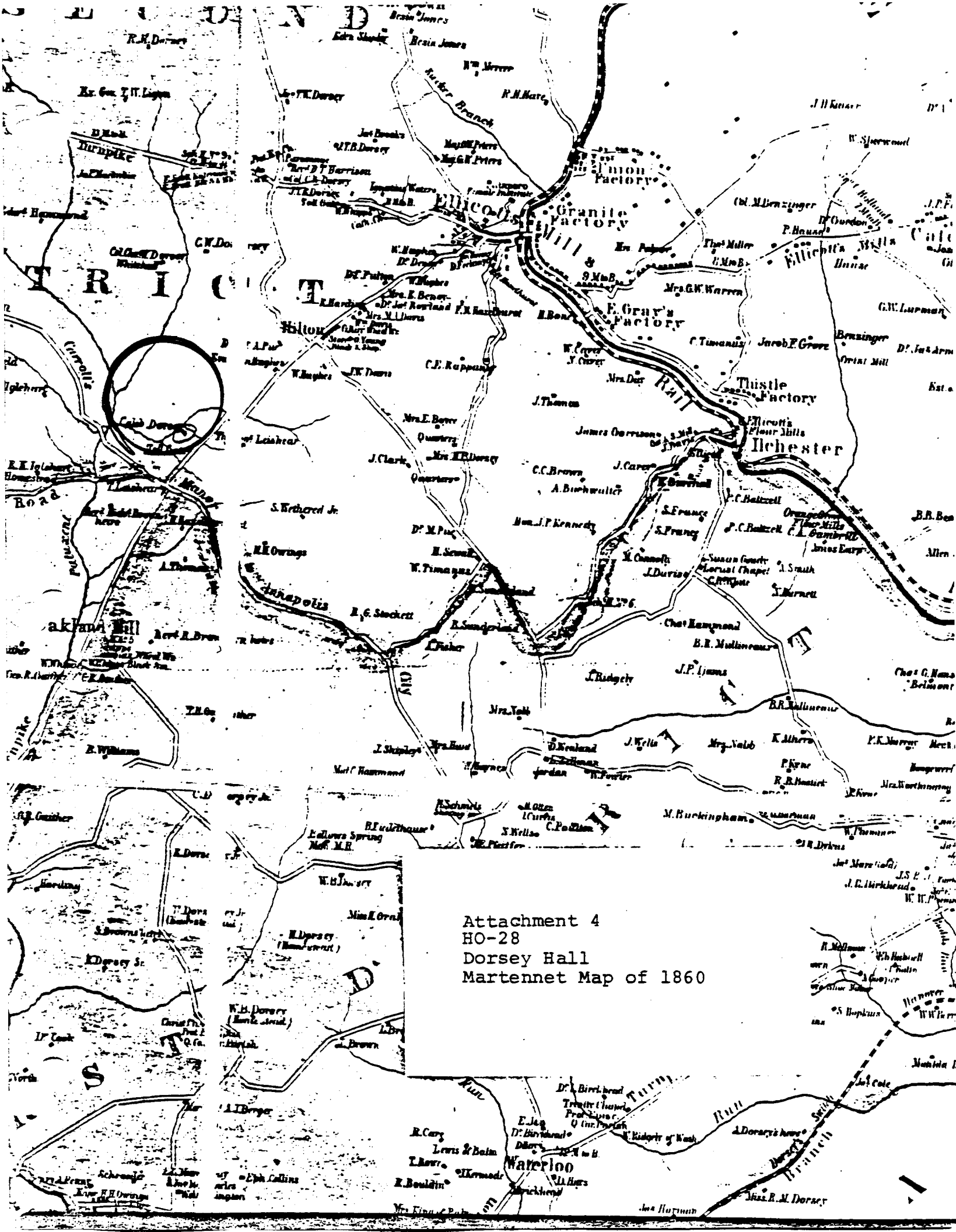
P.113
P.114
P.115
P.116



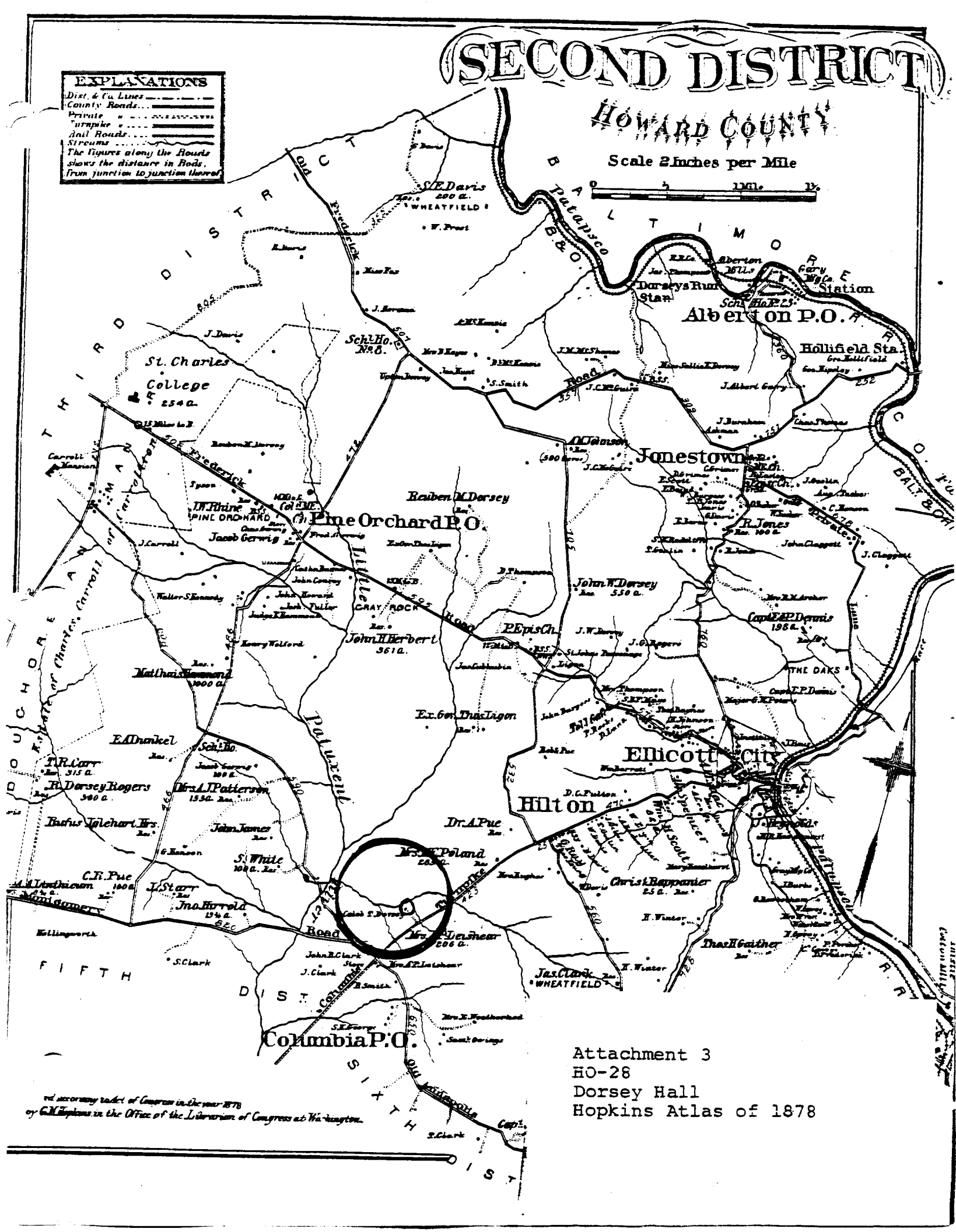
SCALE
"= 800'

2F-152

Attachment 1
HO-28
Dorsey Hall
Tax Map 30

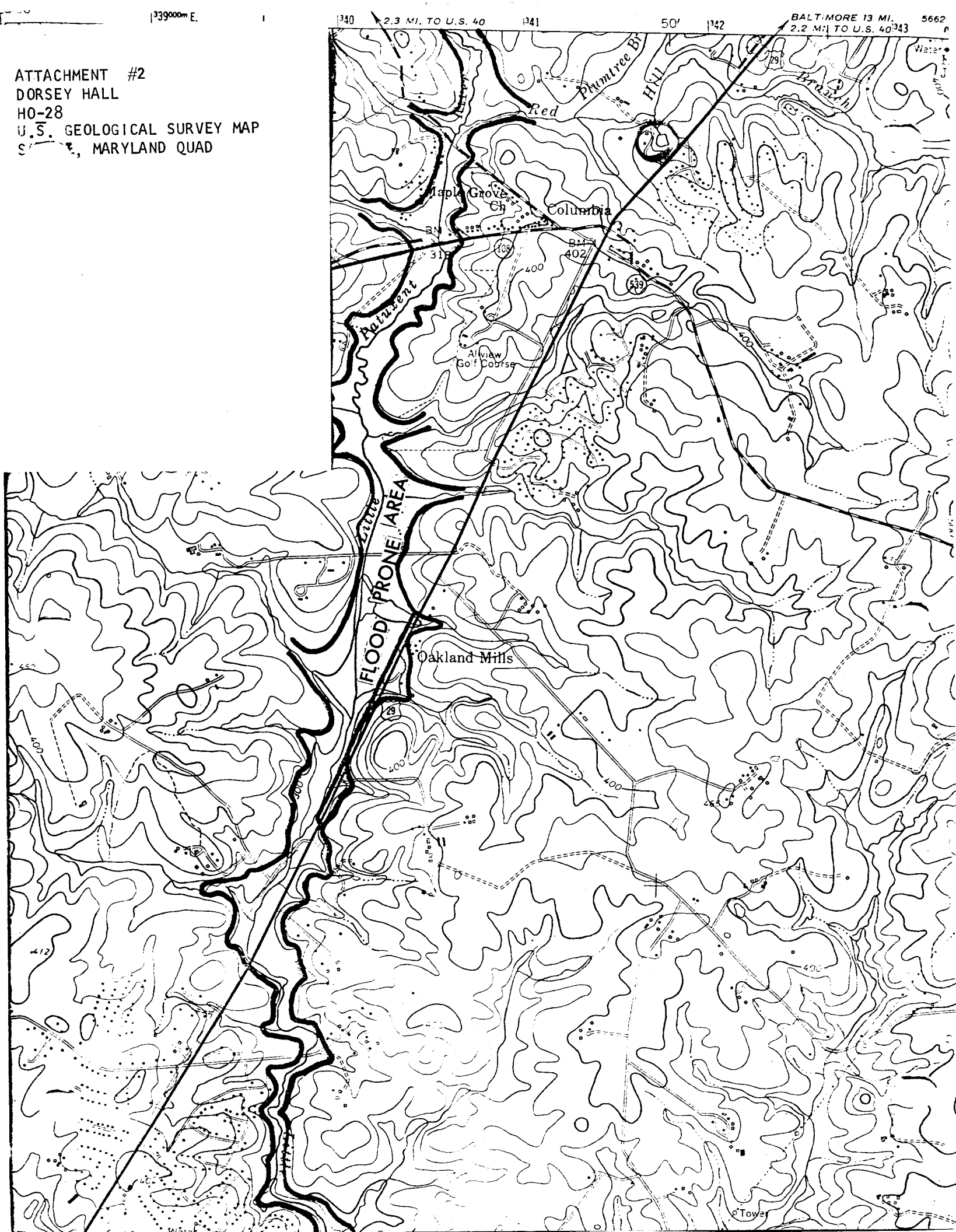


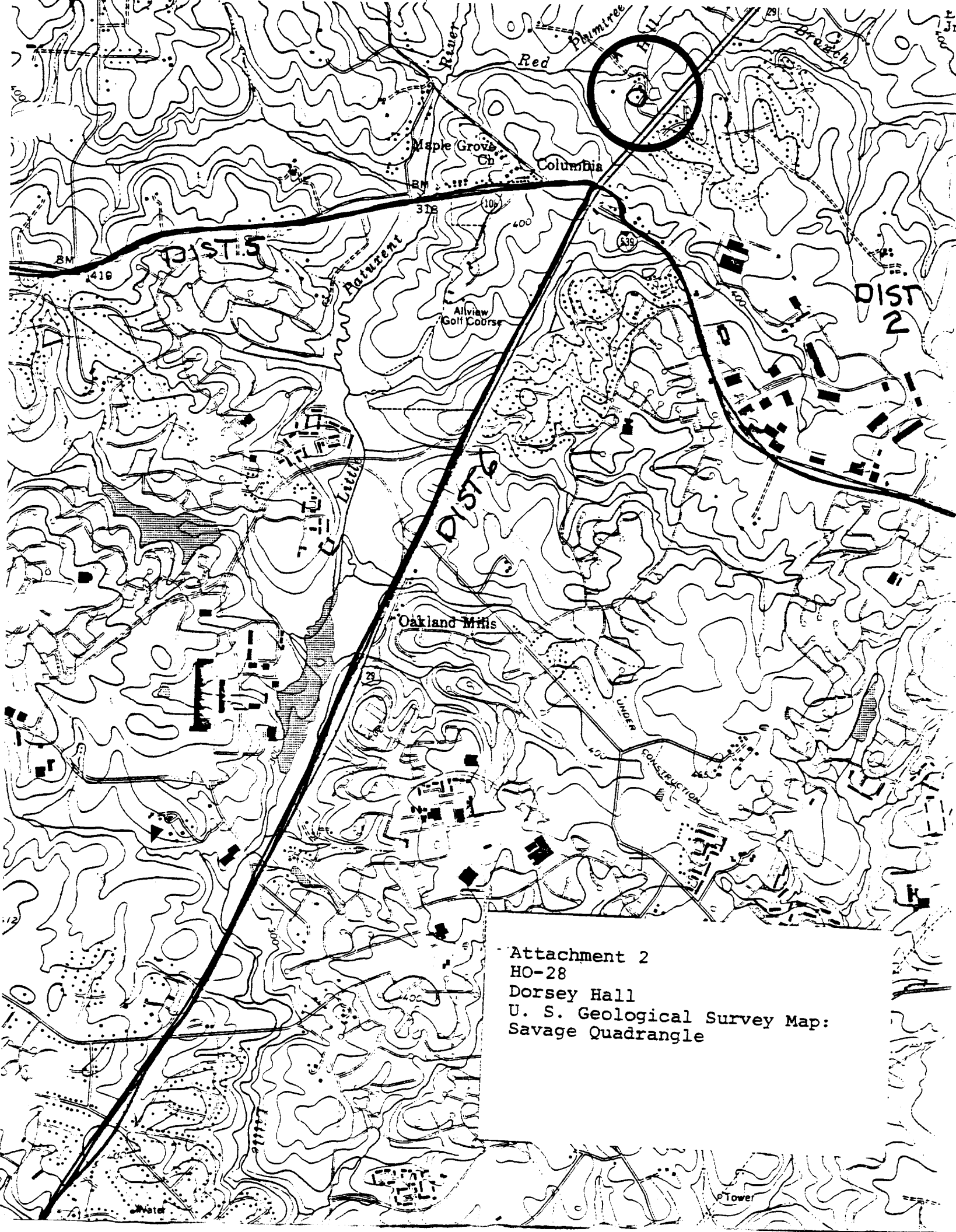
Attachment 4
HO-28
Dorsey Hall
Martennet Map of 1860



Attachment 3
HO-28
Dorsey Hall
Hopkins Atlas of 1878

ATTACHMENT #2
DORSEY HALL
HO-28
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY MAP
S[illegible], MARYLAND QUAD





Attachment 2
HO-28
Dorsey Hall
U. S. Geological Survey Map:
Savage Quadrangle

HO-28

DORSEY HALL
(SOUTH)

CLEORA THOMPSON
JAN. 1977

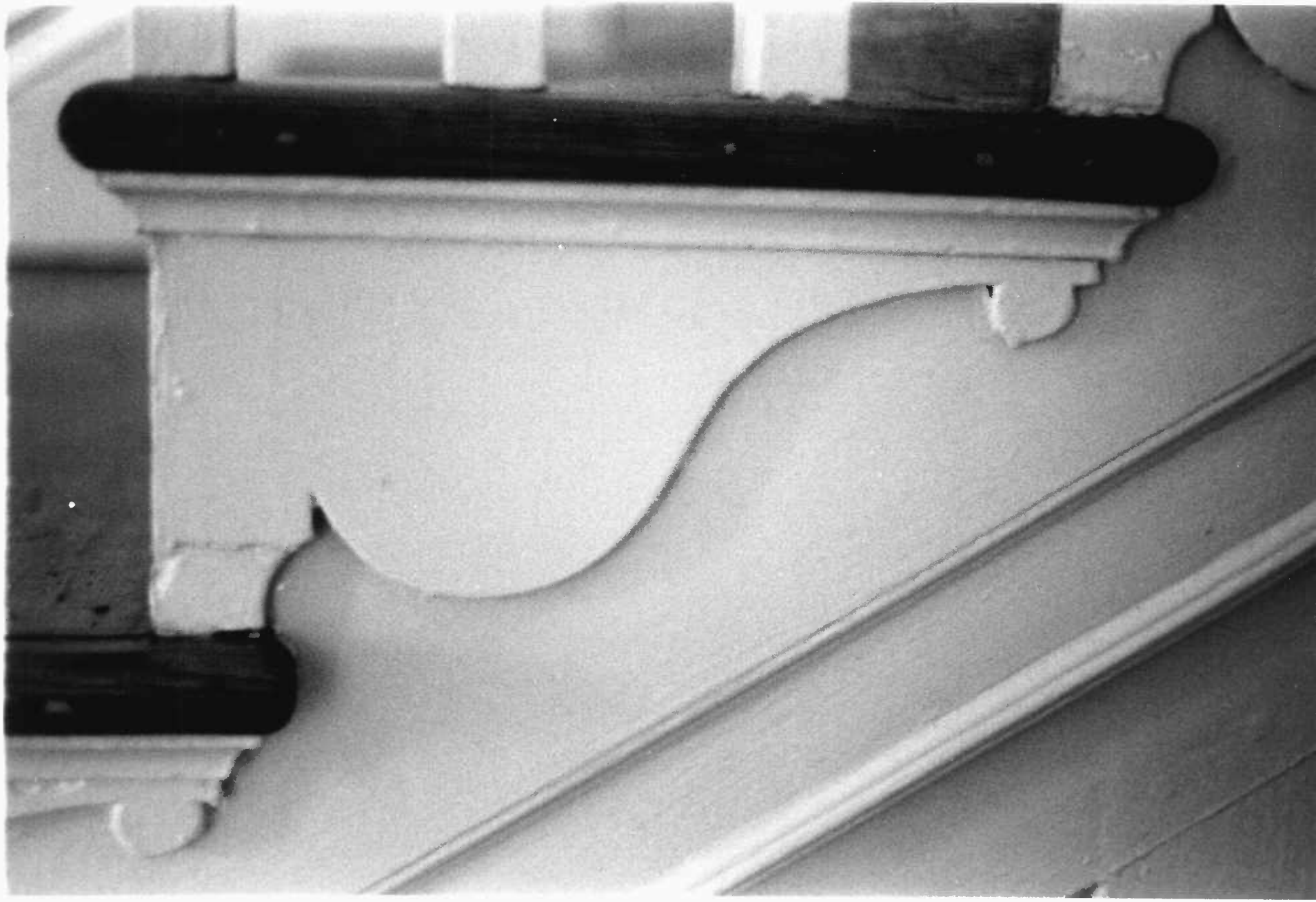
Name: HO-28
Dorsey Hall

Location: 4658 Route 29
Ellicott City, Md. 21043
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.
Date of photograph: June, 1980
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust
View: South elevation of building
Photographer looking: North
Photograph number: 1 of 10

Name: HO-28
Dorsey Hall
Location: 4658 Route 29
Ellicott City, Md. 21043
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.
Date of photograph: June, 1980
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust
View: East Elevation of building indicating the north elevation of the main section
Photographer looking: West
Photograph number: 2 of 10

Name: HO-28
Dorsey Hall
Location: 4658 Route 29
Ellicott City, Md. 21043
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.
Date of Photograph: June, 1980
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust
View: Cellar window on north elevation
Photographer looking: South
Photograph number: 3 of 10

Name: HO-28
Dorsey Hall
Location: 4658 Route 29
Ellicott City, Md. 21043
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.
Date of Photograph: June, 1980
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust
View: Spiral staircase in hall
Photographer looking: Up to second floor from the first floor
Photograph number: 4 of 10



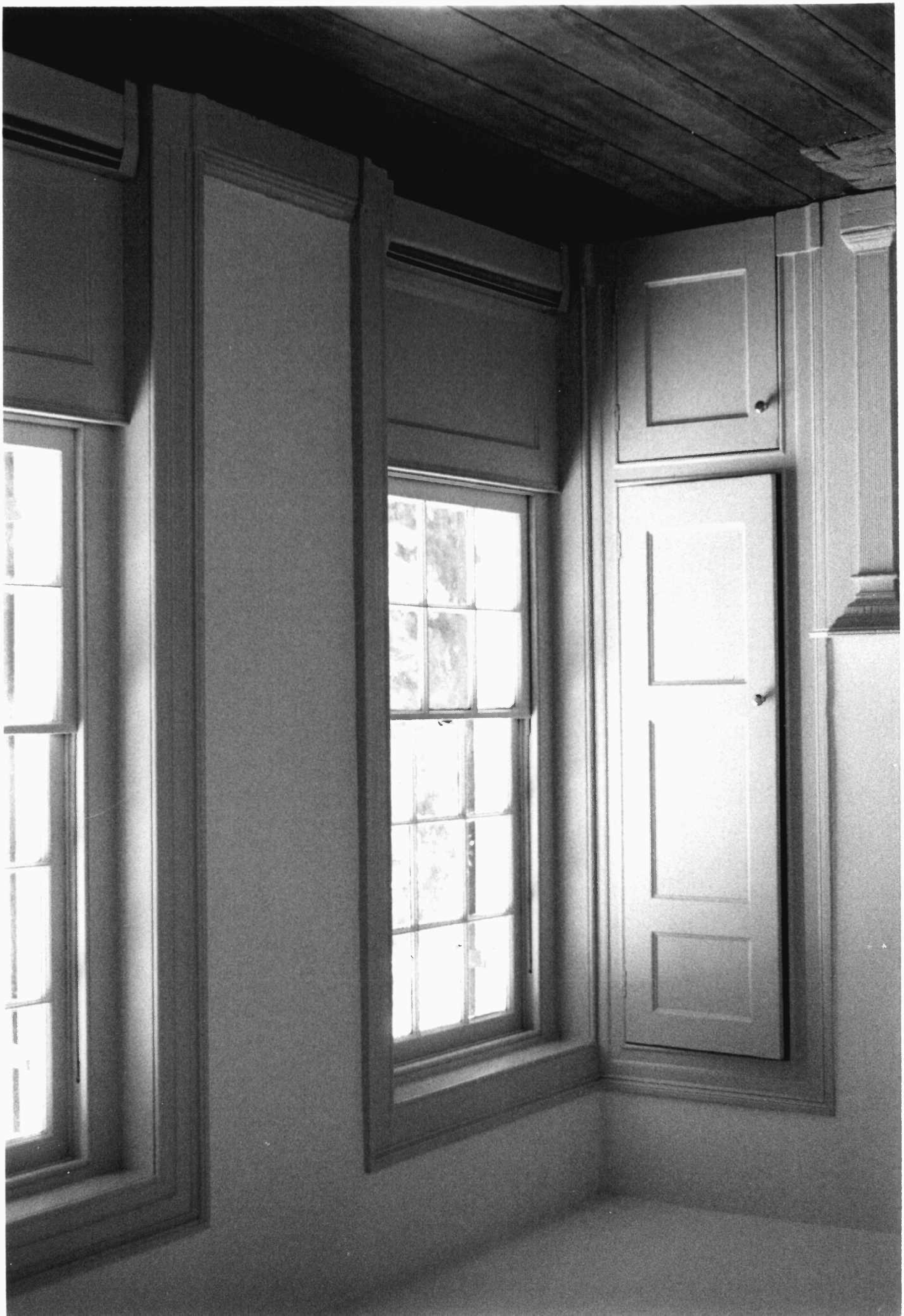
Name: HO-28
Dorsey Hall
Location: 4658 Route 29
Ellicott City, Md. 21043
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.
Date of Photograph: June, 1980
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust
View: Side panel of staircase
Photographer looking: West
Photograph number: 5 of 10

Name: HO-28
Dorsey Hall

Location: 4658 Route 29
Ellicott City, Md. 21043

Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.
Date of photograph: June, 1980
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust
View: First floor dining room mantlepiece and entrance door to original section
Photographer looking: West
Photograph number: 6 of 10

Name: HO-28
Dorsey Hall
Location: 4658 Route 29
Ellicott City, Md. 21043
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.
Date of Photograph: June, 1980
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust
View: Mantlepiece of bedroom in Connector
Photographer looking: West
Photograph number: 7 of 10



Name: Ho-28
Dorsey Hall
Location: 4658 Route 29
Ellicott City, Md. 21043
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.
Date of photograph: June, 1980
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust
View: Southeast corner of second floor bedroom in East Wing
Photographer looking: Southeast
Photograph number: 8 of 10

Name: HO-28
Dorsey Hall
Location: 4658 Route 29
Ellicott City, Md. 21043
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.
Date of Photograph: June, 1980
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust
View: Double-hung attic windows in Connector
Photographer looking: South
Photograph number: 9 of 10

Name: HO-28
Dorsey Hall
Location: 4658 Route 29
Ellicott City, Md. 21043
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.
Date of Photograph: June, 1980
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust
View: Name and date inscribed in cement of fireplace in attic of original section
Photographer looking: North
Photograph number: 10 of 10