Ho-92
The Trusty Friend
Cooksville
Private

circa 1795

The Trusty Friend faces south on a high hill over looking Route 144. The five bay wide, one room deep, two and a half story brick (laid in English garden wall brick bond) gabled roof (running east-west) structure has a central hall plan and has been constructed in two sections. The older section lies on the east side of the hall whose west wall holds a central brick chimney. Three bays were added at a later date providing a central hall and staircase and large living room whose west wall holds an additional central brick chimney. The west wall holds a single rectangular attic window with four-over-four lights.

A gabled roof portico supported by two columns covers the central rectangular entrance which is surmounted by a six light transom and flanked by three vertical side lights.

A three bay wide, one and a half story, gabled roof, frame addition extends from the east wall of the original structure.

The bricks in this structure were fashioned by hand and dried in the sun. Finger impressions can still be noted. The interior walls are solid masonry, on which the plaster was spread immediately and then whitewashed. Floors are of random width and window sills and door jams are hand carved. A large block of wood was built into the wall of each room to hold candles.

The Trusty Friend was patented by Thomas Hobbs in 1795, incorporating acreage from several tracts of land. Shortly thereafter the east section of the brick house was constructed.

Ho-92
Dist 4
MAGI #1400925204

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Trusty Friend

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: (MD Route #144) Frederick Road

CITY, TOWN: Cooksville — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6th

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Howard

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
X DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	X COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

Trusty Friend

NAME: Mr. & Mrs. Charles Winfield Robb — Telephone #: 489-4445

STREET & NUMBER: Route 144

CITY, TOWN: Cooksville — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Tax Map 8 p.95 — Hall of Records

Liber #: 630
Folio #: 176
Land Access: 11650
Building Access: 25700
Total Acess: 37350

STREET & NUMBER: Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN: Ellicott City

STATE: Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE: 1977 — __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN: 21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

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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

Trusty Friend is a five bay wide, one bay deep, two and half story, brick (laid in English garden wall brick bond) structure with gabled roof running east-west and a square brick chimney centered into its west wall. Another exterior brick chimney between the second east bay and central bay delineates the original building, built shortly after 1795 by Thomas Hobbs, when he patented Trusty Friend. The woodwork in this section of the house is more simple in design.

The South Elevation

A central rectangular south entrance is flanked by three vertical side lights and surmounted by a six light transom.

A new gabled roof portico supported by two square posts covers the entrance. It was added by Mr. and Mrs. C. Winfield Robb. Two gabled roof dormers hold rectangular double-hung windows with six-over-six lights. They are flanked by fluted pilasters and surmounted by pediments. A header brick corbel table runs along the roof line of the south elevation, composed of two corbeled header brick courses. Basement windows are inset into its stone foundation.

The West Elevation

The west elevation holds a single rectangular attic double-hung window just north of the central chimney. It holds four-over-four lights and is decorated with a wooden lintel and a row of header bricks. A cellar door is located on the south side of the stone foundation.

The North Elevation

There is a distinct line dividing the wall which shows a break in the brick masonry. This line indicates the original house whose rectangular entrance is located in the east bay, decorated by a wooden lintel, surmounted by a header brick lintel. It has been bricked in.

A gabled roof dormer window is centered into the gabled roof of this old section of the house, holding a rectanglar four-over-four window.

A solid wooden door with a granite stone base lies in the central bay of the north elevation. This is a part of the three bay wide early nineteenth century addition. This extends from the west wall of the early house. Together they form a five bay wide, one bay deep central hall plan brick structure.

The East Elevation Addition

Along the east wall of this structure rests a three bay wide, one bay deep, one and a half story high, gabled roof, frame addition with chimney

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

on its east wall, constructed circa 1967.

Its north wall holds three first floor rectangular windows with six-over-six lights and three gabled roof dormer windows set into its gabled roof line.

Centered into the south wall of this addition is a tripartite oriele window with hipped roof, each component holding six-over-six lights.

The interior features an exceptionally fine living room mantle piece flanked by fluted pilasters, randam width pine floors, and interior central staircase holding curly maple spindles. An original plaster wall is located upstairs between the bedroom and bath. Brick bearing walls are located on each side of the central hall.

The house sits on the crest of a hill on the north side of Route 144. Below it is a pond put in by Mr. and Mrs. Robb in conjunction with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	X ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1795 and nineteenth century BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following history of Trusty Friend was complied by Charles Winfield Robb:

Joseph Hobbs I, son of John, came with his wife to Howard County from Queen Anne's County in the last part of the 1600's. His son, Joseph Hobbs II, a planter by profession, patented 1,737 acres of land in 1760. This tract, located near what was to be Cooksville, was called "Poverty Discovered" and was the first land organized under the Hobbs name in Howard County. The same year, 1760, was the date of the completion of the Frederick Turnpike running from Fredericktown (Frederick) to Baltimore. The opening of this road paved the way for farmers to take their tobacco to market. At this time tobacco was the leading crop of Howard and Frederick Counties. Joseph Hobbs II later patented several other tracts of land in the Cooksville vicinity. They were "Noah's Ark" and a smaller tract named "Defiance".

Joseph Hobbs had six children; Racheal Hobbs Bifsitt, Henry C. Hobbs, Joseph Hobbs III, Hannah Hobbs Spurrier, Noah Hobbs and Thomas Hobbs. Thomas, born in 1741, married Nancy Baker and became a captain in the Colonial Army. He left the only writen account of the burning of the vessel "Peggy Steward" in the Chesapeake Bay during the Revolutionary War.

Captain Hobbs patented several tracts of land in the late 1700's. Two of these were "Whitsuntide's Gift" and "Stoney Stratford" both lying adjacent to his father's land in the area where the Westminster Road (now Rt. 97) and the Frederick Turnpike intersect.

On July 11, 1795, Thomas Hobbs incorporated 82½ acres of "Defiance" and 11½ acres of "Poverty Discovered" (both belonging to his father who had died four years earlier) plus 112½ acres of "Whitsuntide's Gift" and 167¼ acres of "Stoney Stratford" both previously patented by himself. To this he added 15 3/8 acresof vacant land. It is interesting to note that Thomas Hobbs had to pay seven pounds for this vacant land because of 2603 fence logs which were standing on it. At the time of the consolidation he named the new tract "The Trusty Friend".

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Shortly after the founding of this land a brick house, which remains today, was built. The bricks in this structure were fashion by hand and dried in the sun on the surrounding hillside. In several places, finger impressions were left in still wet bricks. The interior walls are solid masonry. Plaster was spread immediately on these walls without benefit of wooden slats. The plaster was then whitewashed. Floors are of random width and window sills and doorjams are hand carved. A large block of wood was built into a wall of each room to hold candles.

Seven years after the incorporation of "The Trusty Friend", Capt. Hobbs sold an undetermined amount of the tract to Thomas Cooke, for whom Cooksville was named. Between 1802 and 1816, Thomas Hobbs sold acreage to Sarah Worthington and John Nox. In 1810, part of the land was deeded over to Noah Hobbs, the brother of Captain Thomas Hobbs. In 1824, the Captain died, leaving the remainder of the land to his eleven children. They were Sophia Hobbs Musgrove, Cordelia Hobbs Barnes, Jerrard Hobbs, Eleanor Hobbs Thompson, Caleb Hobbs, Jerucha Hobbs Peddicord, Amelia Hobbs Peddicord, Sarah Hobbs Hood, Joseph Hobbs and Hannah Hobbs Sheets.

In 1834, only five years after the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad had reached from Baltimore to Cooksville, (that part of Cooksville now known as Hood's Mill) three of the remaining children deeded the land to six others. One of the children receiving the land and the brick house was Hannah Hobbs Sheets, wife of Charles Sheets of Frederick County.

In 1878, when the population of Howard County was 15,000 and that of the fourth district was 2,492, another brother willed his part of "The Trusty Friend" to Hannah. The amount of the tract owned by her at this time was 146 acres. Hannah and Charles Sheets had eight children. They were Caleb Sheets, Kiturah Sheets, Elizabeth Sheets, Amelia Sheets Wilcox, Mary Ann Sheets Peddicord, Rebecca Sheets, Hannah Sheets and Nancy Sheets.

At the death of Hannah and Charles the land passed to Mary Ann Sheets, wife of Caleb Peddicord. On September 7, 1863, Mary Ann deeded the land to her brother Caleb Sheets who on the same day deeded the land to his sister Kiturah. Kiturah Sheets and her four unmarried sisters, Elizabeth, Hannah, Rebecca and Nancy lived in the brick house with their brother Caleb. The remaining sister Amelia Sheets Wilcox and her daughter are buried near the house.

There are many interesting stories surrounding "The Trusty Friend" handed down from the time of the Sheets family. The four unmarried sisters not thinking it correct, in 1863, to live in the same house with an unmarried man, made poor Caleb, their brother, sleep in the barn.

Occasionaly, during the Civil War, Confederate scouts would come into Maryland in search of horses. The Confederates would take the horses and "pay" for them with Confederate money which was worthless in Maryland. Whenever there was word that there were Confederate scouts in the area, Caleb would take the horses into the woods and hide them. Finally, these Southern excursions became so numerous, so the story goes, that if the

horses were let out of the barn in the middle of the night, they would procede immediately to the woods and wait there until the Confederates had gone.

The five unmarried members of the Sheets family, having no children, willed the land to first cousin Winfield Sheets Robb to hold it in trust for his son George William Robb until the latter became twenty-one years of age. The land was not deeded as a whole. Sixty-seven acres were deeded from Kiturah Sheets to the Robb family in 1885 and, the remaining seventyfive acres was passed on in 1888.

At the death of George William Robb Sr., in 1957, the land came into the possession of his two sons George William Robb Jr. and Charles Winfield Robb.

There are fifty acres of the land, including the house remaining in the Robb family. This remaining section of "The Trusty Friend" as you have seen has never been sold for money. It has been handed down from cousin to cousin, brother to brother and father to son since the original patented nearly two centuries ago.

NOTE:

Architecturally the building is noteworthy as an example of how Howard County planters built their homes. The bricks were made by hand on the property as has been noted. Initially only the present kitchen and dining room were constructed. Later, as the farm was established and prospered, the house was enlarged another three bays to the west. The fine proportions and scale of the front facade with its proportionally scaled and vertically aligned fenestration is noteworthy. The addition to the east and screen porch on the north accommodate family living but do not detract from the integrity of the structure.

Located on the top of a hill on the north side of route 144, it holds a commanding view.

For its association with Thomas Hobbs, one of the early settlers of what was then Ann Arundel County and for its fine example of Howard County's early brick architecture, "The Trusty Friend" should be placed on the National Register and incorporated into the recommendations of the Critical Areas State Planning Program.

Ho-92
Distr. 4

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Robb, Charles Winfield. History of The Trusty Friend. Mimeographed
Land Records of Howard County, Maryland
Interiveiw with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Robb at Trusty Friend, August. 1977.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 46.536 Acres

Please see Attachment I, Tax Map 8, p.95.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records
Liber: 630, folio: 176

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

STATE Maryland COUNTY Howard

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION
Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

TELEPHONE
465-5000 x257

STREET & NUMBER
3450 Court House Drive

CITY OR TOWN
Ellicott City

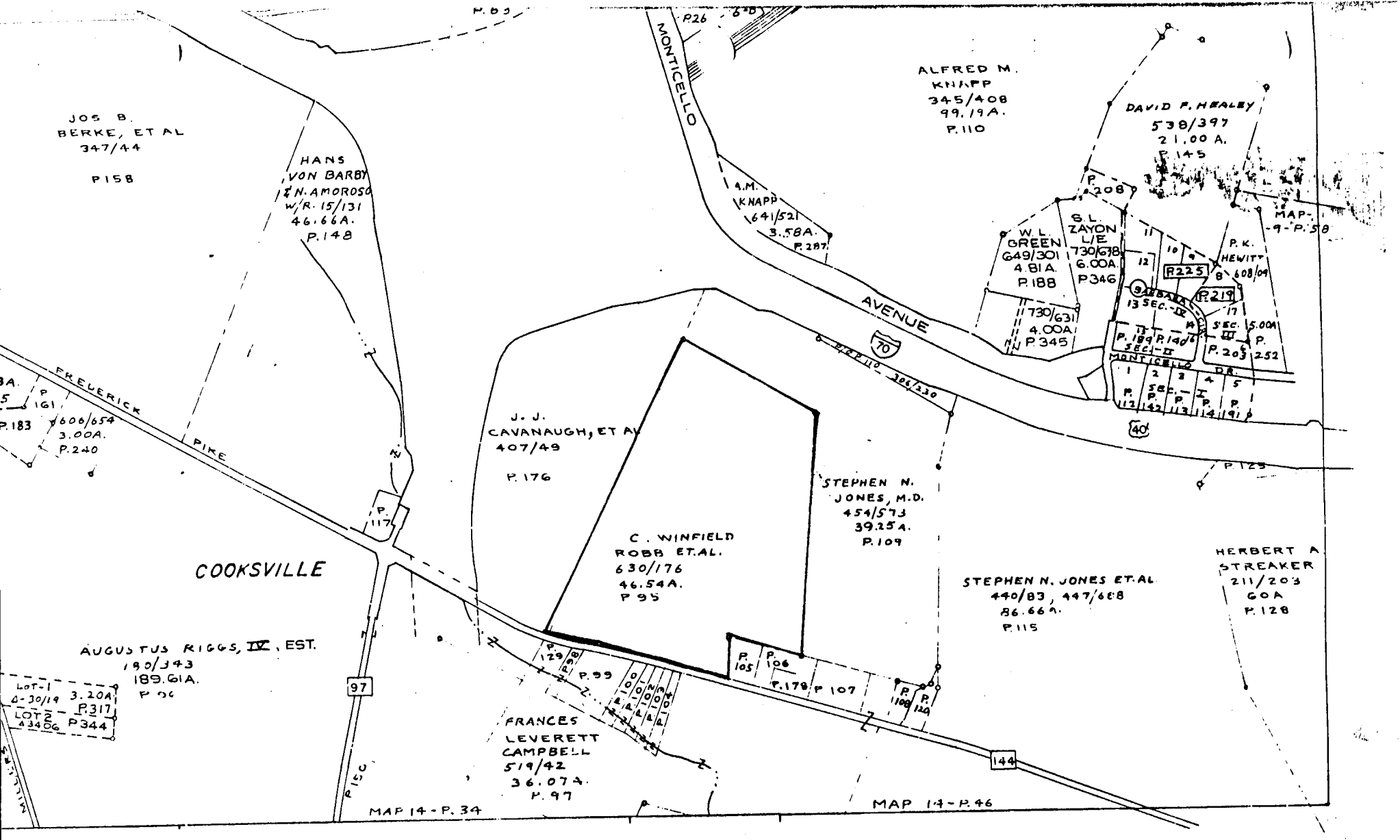
STATE
Maryland

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.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

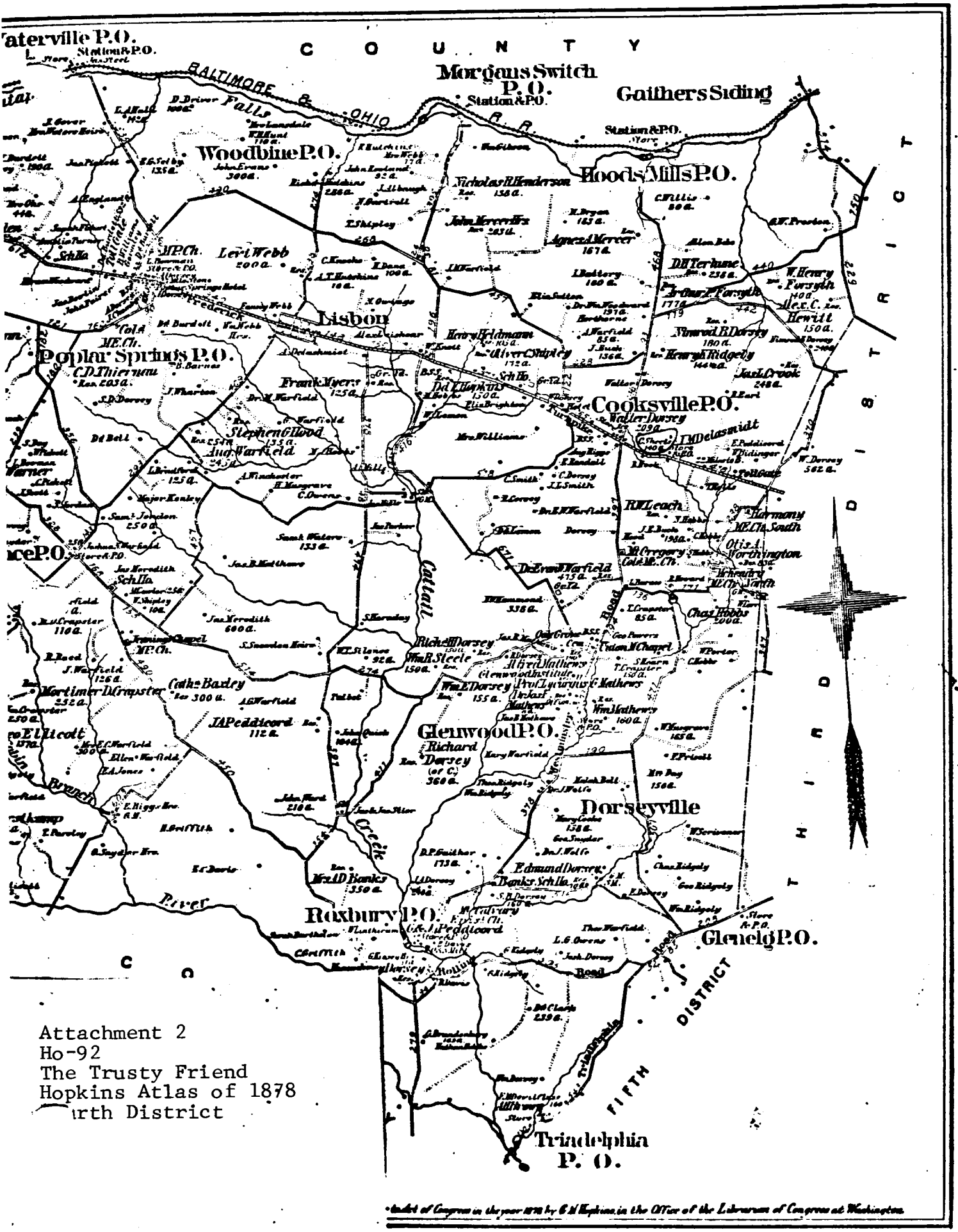
PS-1108



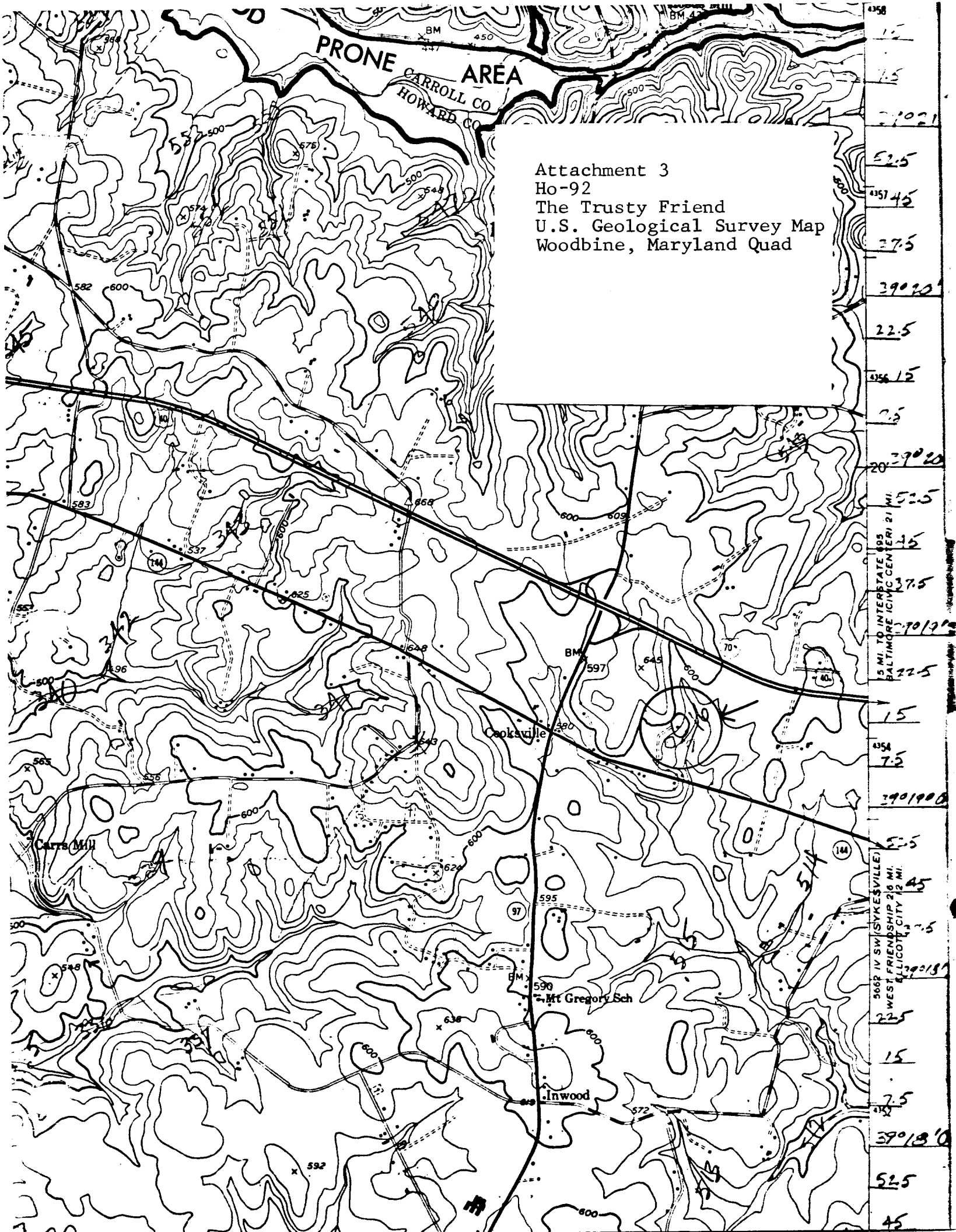
Attachment I
Ho-92
The Trusty Friend
Tax Map 8

HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

8



Attachment 2
Ho-92
The Trusty Friend
Hopkins Atlas of 1878
Fourth District



Attachment 3
Ho-92
The Trusty Friend
U.S. Geological Survey Map
Woodbine, Maryland Quad

HO 92

212A

Trusty Friend BE 4/72

Ho-92
TRUSTY FRIEND
SEPT. 1977
CB THOMPSON
SOUTHWEST