

Ho - 100  
The Bicentennial Building  
Lawyer's Row, Ellicott City  
Private

Circa 1885

This building sits in the midst of five frame buildings on the south side of Court Avenue, opposite the Howard County Courthouse, known as Lawyer's Row. Occupied as law offices in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, three out of the five remain so. Judge Macgill and Judge Mayfield's law office is now the Bright Residence (see Ho-437) while this building has been used by Howard County in 1976 as their Bicentennial Headquarters.

The building is a three bay wide, two bay deep, one story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame building facing north on Court Avenue. Its central rectangular cross paneled doorway is surmounted by a two light transom and flanked by rectangular double hung windows with two-over-two lights. The "A" formed by its gabled roof holds cre-nalated decorative shingles and is an adaptation of the shingle style which had its roots in early American colonial architecture and which was so popular in the late nineteenth century. The relatively low pitch of the roof emphasizes the horizontal character of the building, which with its neighbors comprise one of the most interesting and picturesque streetscapes in Ellicott City.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY MAGI # 1401005601

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND OR COMMON

The Bicentennial Headquarters Building

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

8355 Court Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Howard

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES, RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: to be determined

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kinlein & Mr. & Mrs. Orrin

Telephone #: 461-2424

STREET & NUMBER

J. Brown III

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City, Md.

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

21043

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

Tax Map 25A p. 290

Liber #: 109

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Hall of Records

Folio #: 570

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  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bicentennial Building is a three bay wide, two bay deep, one story, gabled roof (running north-south) German siding and shingled building built on a stone basement foundation. A central rectangular cross paneled entrance door is located on the north wall, surmounted by a two light transom, and flanked by a single rectangular, double-hung window holding two-over-two lights, decorated by wooden shutters. The "A" within the eaves of the north wall is decorated with shingles laid in alternate crenelated rows.

Two similar first floor windows rest in the east and west walls of the building which has traditionally been set aside for law offices and in 1976 was used as the Headquarters for the Bicentennial Committee.

Its south wall holds three similar windows and a rectangular basement entrance in the west bay.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      circa 1885      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bicentennial Building, once a law office, sits on the south side of Court Avenue, opposite the Howard County Court House. It is significant historically, architecturally and in the field of law.

Historically the old law office sits on a tract of land called "Mount Misery". David Sprecker owned a part of this tract which comprised the Old Deborah Disney Tavern on the north side of Main Street as well as this law office on Court Avenue. On August 3, 1885 Mr. Sprecker sold Lot #1 to E. Alexander Talbott for \$2,000 (49-464). Some ten years later Edward A. Talbott and John L. Clark, Executors, conveyed the property to Hattersly W. Talbott, Trustee, dated the 28 day of December, 1894. (JHO 62-467).

On the 2nd day of March, 1920 James Clark, substituted Trustee, as hereinafter set forth, sold the property at Public Auction to the County Commissioners of Howard County for \$2275.00.

During the Bicentennial year, this building was used as headquarters for the Howard County Bicentennial Committee with Mrs. Monica Rothe as Chairman.

Architecturally the building is an adaptation of the shingle style to a simple office building. The pitch of the gabled roof emphasizes the horizontal character of the building while the crenelated decorative shingles in the A line formed by the gable give interest to an otherwise simple, well proportioned building. The law office west of the Bicentennial Building is almost identical to it. It too features these crenelated decorative shingles in its "A" line. East of the former law office is an open lot whose southern boundary goes to Main Street and has been designated as a park site in the Ellicott City Master Plan. Beside the park and east sit three former law offices, once that of Judge John Clark and Henry Wooten; that of Judge Macgill and Judge Mayfield, now the Bright residence; and that of Judge Cicone. These five simple frame law offices form what has traditionally been known as Lawyer's Row. They comprise together one of the most picturesque streetscapes in Ellicott City and are dependent architecturally one to another.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Significance (cont.)

They comprise a rather unique place, geographically, architecturally and historically in the field of law. Howard County's Circuit Court judges have had their offices here and other distinguished counselors.

Architecturally they have their roots in the simple frame colonial architecture of New England as opposed to the usual granite and stone architecture found on the north side of Main Street in Ellicott City.

For these reasons the Bicentennial Building and Lawyer's Row is significant historically, architecturally and in the field of law. It is presently in the Ellicott City historic district.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ho- 100  
Dist. 2

Land Records of Howard County

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 25 A, p. 290

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see liber 109, folio 570

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 465-5000 x257

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

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



**HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION**  
**APPLICATION — PART 1**  
(Pursuant to the Tax Reform Act of 1976)

**Instructions:** Applicant should read the instructions carefully before completing application. No Certification may be made unless a completed application form has been received (P.L. 94-455). Use typewriter or print clearly in dark ink to complete the application form. If additional space is needed to complete Part 1, use the reverse side or a separate plain sheet of paper clearly indicating the owner's name and mailing address. Part 1 of this application may be completed and sent to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer at any time during the year, and may be sent separately or with Part 2.

**PART 1 EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY: BROWN & Kinkin Law Office  
Address of property: Street 8355 Court Avenue  
City Ellicott City County Howard State Maryland Zip Code 21043  
Name of historic district in which property is located: Ellicott City

2. DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:  
(see instructions for map and photograph requirements—use reverse side if necessary)  
1 story frame building with unfinished attic and dirt basement. App. 750 square feet. Original millwork and interior layout retained.

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
(use reverse side if necessary)  
First law office constructed at the then new courthouse after the county had separated from Anne Arundel County.  
Date of construction (if known): 1868  Original site  Moved Date of alterations (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

4. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF OWNER:  
Name ORRIN J. BROWN, III & Richard J. Kinkin  
Street: 8355 Court Avenue  
City Ellicott City State MD Zip Code 21043  
Telephone Number (during day): Area Code 301 461-2424

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I am owner of the property described above.  
Signature Richard J. Kinkin Date 11/7/78

**For office use only**  
The structure described above is included within the boundaries of the National Register historic district and  contributes  does not contribute to the character of the district.  
The structure  appears  does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) and  will likely  will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with the Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60).  
The structure is located in a district which  appears  does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6).  will likely  will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60), and  appears  does not appear to contribute to the character of said district.  
Signature [Signature] Date 3-23-79  
State Historic Preservation Officer

This property has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Department of the Interior (36 CFR 67) and, if subject to depreciation under section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954,  
 is hereby certified a historic structure.  
 does not contribute to the character of the historic district and does not merit certification as a historic structure. Reasons given on the attached sheet.  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of the National Register

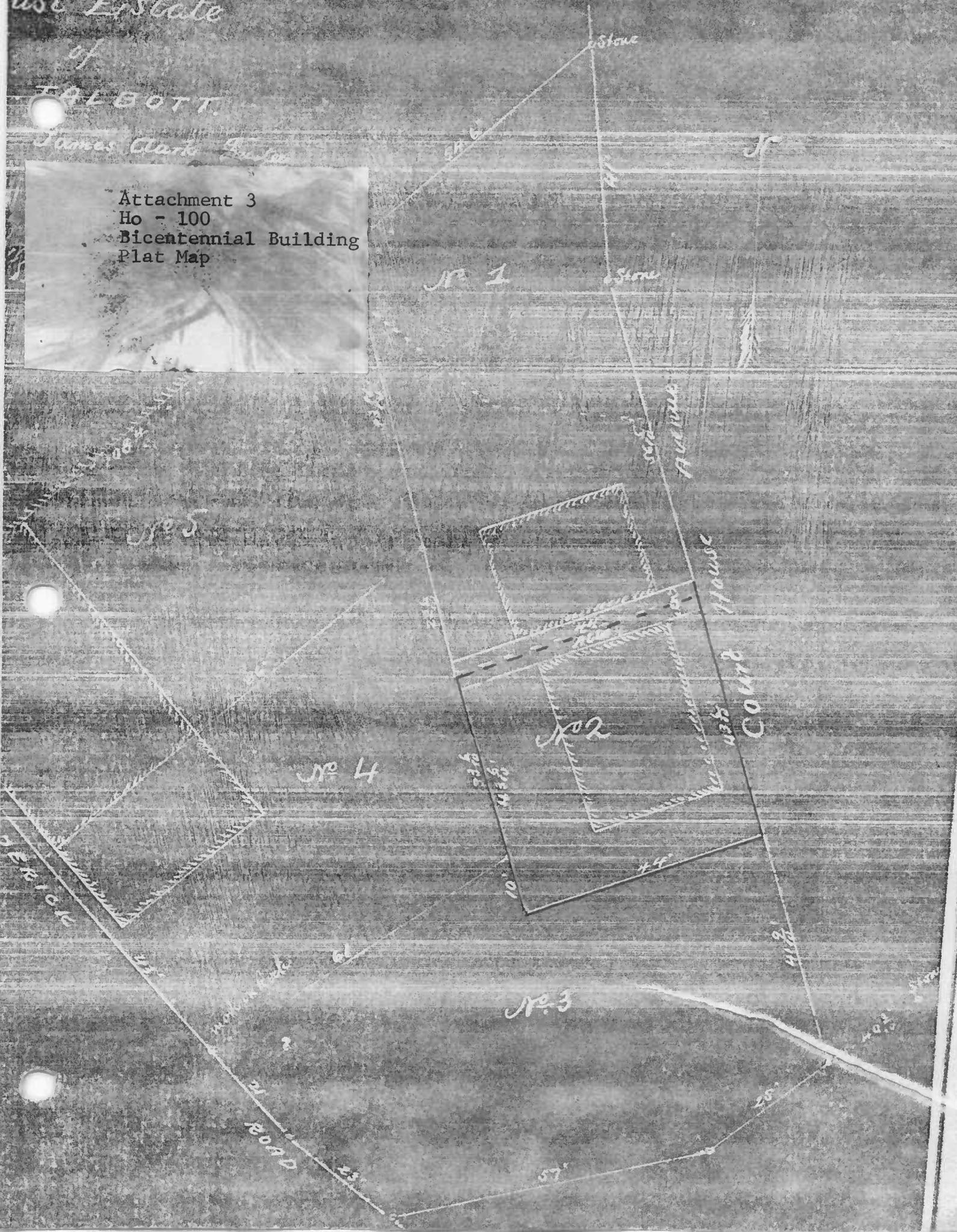
West Estate

of

FALBOTT

James Clark

Attachment 3  
Ho - 100  
Bicentennial Building  
Plat Map



# PLAN OF ELLICOTT CITY

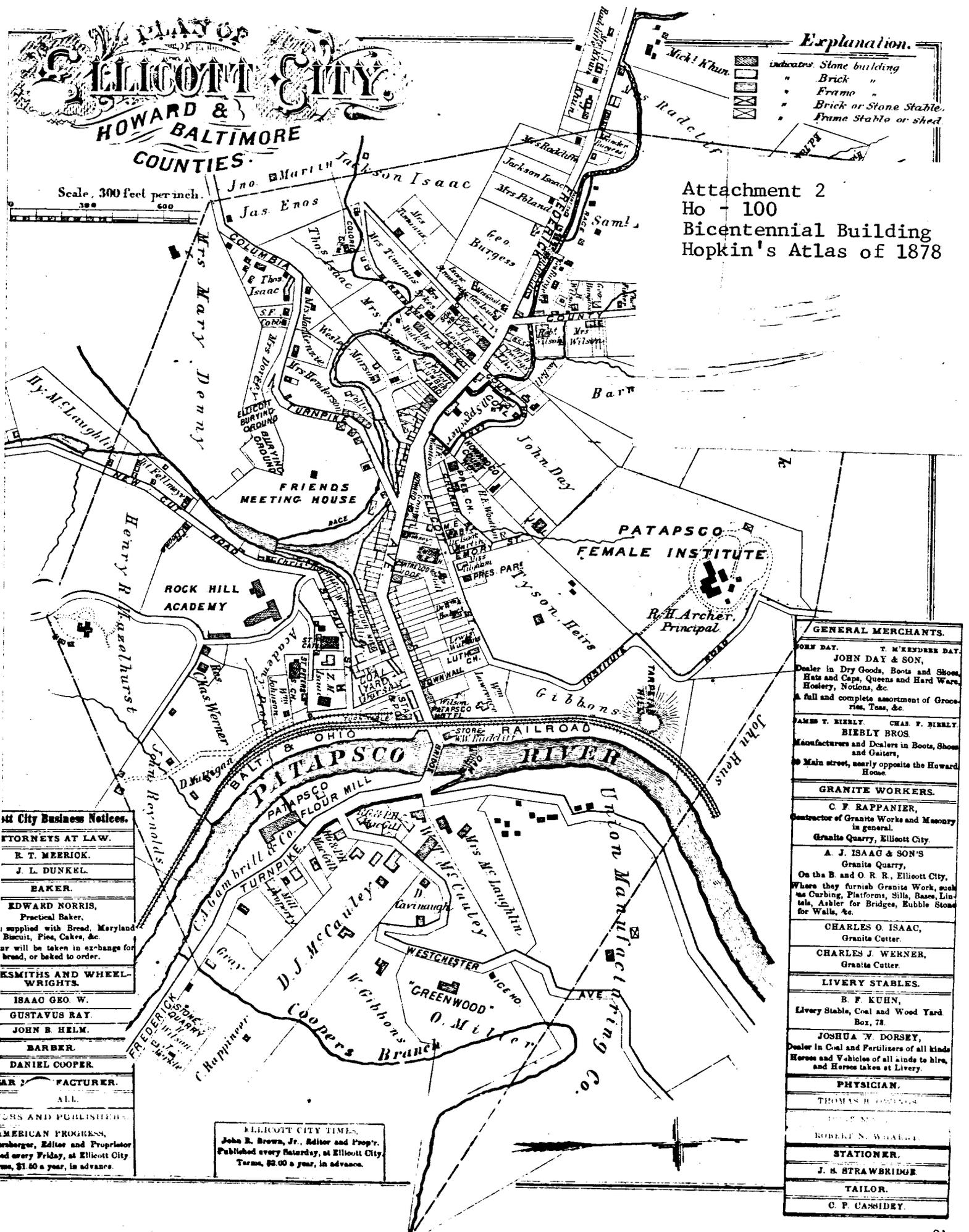
HOWARD & BALTIMORE COUNTIES.

Scale, 300 feet per inch.

**Explanation.**

- indicates Stone building
- Brick
- Frame
- Brick or Stone Stable
- Frame Stable or shed

Attachment 2  
 Ho - 100  
 Bicentennial Building  
 Hopkin's Atlas of 1878



**City Business Notices.**

**ATTORNEYS AT LAW.**  
 R. T. MEERICK.  
 J. L. DUNKEL.

**BAKER.**  
 EDWARD NORRIS,  
 Practical Baker,  
 supplied with Bread, Maryland Biscuit, Pies, Cakes, &c.  
 or will be taken in exchange for bread, or baked to order.

**SMITHS AND WHEEL-  
 WRIGHTS.**  
 ISAAC GEO. W.  
 GUSTAVUS RAY.  
 JOHN B. HELM.  
 BARBER.  
 DANIEL COOPER.

**FACTURER.**  
 ALL.

**PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS.**  
 AMERICAN PROGRESS,  
 Publisher, Editor and Proprietor  
 every Friday, at Ellicott City  
 one, \$1.50 a year, in advance.

**ELLICOTT CITY TIMES.**  
 John R. Brown, Jr., Editor and Proprietor.  
 Published every Saturday, at Ellicott City  
 Terms, \$2.00 a year, in advance.

GENERAL MERCHANTS.	
JOHN DAY.	T. McKEENEY DAY.
JOHN DAY & SON, Dealer in Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes, Hats and Caps, Queens and Hard Ware, Hosiery, Notions, &c. A full and complete assortment of Groceries, Teas, &c.	
JAMES T. BIERLY.	CHAS. F. BIERLY.
BIERLY BROS. Manufacturers and Dealers in Boots, Shoes and Gaiters, Main street, nearly opposite the Howard House	
GRANITE WORKERS.	
C. F. RAPPANIER, Contractor of Granite Works and Masonry in general. Granite Quarry, Ellicott City.	
A. J. ISAAC & SON'S Granite Quarry, On the B. and O. R. R., Ellicott City, Where they furnish Granite Work, such as Curbing, Platforms, Sills, Base, Lin- tels, Ashlar for Bridges, Rubble Stone for Walls, &c.	
CHARLES O. ISAAC, Granite Cutter.	
CHARLES J. WERNER, Granite Cutter.	
LIVERY STABLES.	
B. F. KUHN, Livery Stable, Coal and Wood Yard. Box, 78.	
JOSHUA Y. DORSEY, Dealer in Coal and Fertilizers of all kinds Horses and Vehicles of all kinds to hire, and Horses taken at Livery.	
PHYSICIAN.	
THOMAS H. CONNORS	
ROBERT N. WEAVER	
STATIONER.	
J. S. STRAWBRIDGE	
TAILOR.	
C. P. CASSIDY.	



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