HO-135
PORTER'S TAVERN (The Jack Gebhard House)
Private
Ellicott City

circa 1797

This old stone house, once an eighteenth and early nineteenth century tavern, faces south on the north side of an old road, once leading from Ellicotts Mills to Montgomery Courthouse, now called Route 108, on the northeast corner of its intersection with Manor Lane, leading to Doughoregan Manor. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east-west) stone structure with a wide brick chimney on its east wall from which a two story high, two bay wide frame addition extends. A further two story high frame addition, holding two first floor rooms, each with separate staircase and entrance extends from the north wall of the stone house creating an "L" plan. The stone building features fine stone quoining and flat stone lintels, with central entrance and fine proportions.

"Once a part of Howard's Fair and Amicable Settlement," comprising some 700 acres of land, it stands today as a reminder of Howard County's early history.

HO-135
Dist 2
MAGI # 1401355204

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

# INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC
Porter's Tavern

AND/OR COMMON
The Jack Gebhard House

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
4955 Manor Lane

CITY, TOWN
Ellicott City

__ 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 | __ 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

NAME
Mr. Thomas W. Owens

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
4955 Manor Lane

CITY, TOWN
Ellicott City

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Md 21043

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Tax Map 29, p. 93
Hall of Records

Liber #: 582
Folio #: 183

STREET & NUMBER
Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN
Ellicott City

STATE
Maryland

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE
1978

__ 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

The Jack Gebhard House faces south on the northeast corner of Manor Lane and Route 108. It is composed of four separate buildings which together now form a whole, but which initially began as a simple three bay wide, one room deep, one and a half story high stone building located on the road leading from Ellicott Mills to Montgomery Court House and used as a tavern in 1797.

The stone building features fine stone quoining with huge flat stone lintels over doors and windows. The central rectangular entrance is flanked by a single first floor double-hung window, holding six-over-sixlights. A three light horizontal rectangular window lies beneath the window in the west bay. Over the years additions have been made to this building which now features a central "A" shaped dormer window which holds a tripartite window, each component of which is a rectangular, double-hung window, holding two-over-two lights.

A wide brick chimney is inset into its east wall, while its west wall holds a single two-two light casement window. In the early eighteenth century two frame bays were added to its east wall and its gabled roof extended eastward. This section was built on a stone foundation and features rectangular, double-hung windows, holding six-over-six lights.

A one story high, hipped roof open porch, supported by four square columns in placed on the central three bays of the five bay wide stone and frame south facade. Two wide wooden steps lead to the landing, around whose perimeter runs a wooden railing. Two additional wooden steps lead from the landing to the entrance of the stone section.

The north wall of the stone house holds a basement door under a six-six light window. This foundation was at one time the ground floor with a wide stone fireplace which has since been partially covered by cement, poured in to relieve water leakage. It was later found that this was caused by a spring next to the house.

Extending from the west side of the stone building's north wall is a two story high two room wide north addition with two separate rectangular east entrance doors and each having its own separate staircase to the second floor which features six light second floor windows over the doors. A square brick chimney rises from the central partition wall between these two rooms. The west elevation of this section features two first floor double-hung six-over-six light windows with a six light second floor casement window over that in the north bay. An "A" framed dormer window has been added over the second first floor window which holds an additional six-over-six light window.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

A shed roofed open porch, supported by four square posts runs along the east wall of the north wing. A charming brick patio borders the porch.

North of the house lies a frame barn built on a stone foundation.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __PREHISTORIC | __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | __COMMUNITY PLANNING | __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | __RELIGION |
| __1400-1499 | __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 | X COMMERCE | __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION |
| __1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | __INDUSTRY | __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | __OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | __INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES Circa 1797 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jack Gebhard House is architecturally and historically significant.

Architecturally this old stone house dates from the eighteenth century. Visitors passing by have related varied tales to Mr. Owen, the present owner which substantiate the architectural evidence.

The basic three bay wide, two story house which fits into the slope of the land, creating one floor from the south elevation and two floors from the north elevation is typical of Howard County's eighteenth and early nineteenth century stone houses. See HO-120, HO-154, HO-155, and HO-122. Dormer windows have been added in this century to create a third floor in the attic for greater utilization of space.

Fine stone work, so representative of this period, can be seen in the quoining and flat lintels which accentuate the building's corners and decorate its doors and windows, respectively.

In addition, it is their fine proportions and scale which set these buildings apart and make them so important to the Howard County countryside.

The additions made to the house throughout the years have left this sense of scale and proportion unimpaired.

An early nineteenth century two bay wide frame addition was constructed off the stone building's east wall, probably circa 1797 when used as a tavern. This was soon followed by the addition of two separate two story high rooms, extending from the stone building's north wall, creating an "L" plan. They in no sense overwhelm the original stone structure, but are an adjunct to it, complementing it in their scale and proportions.

Their interesting interior arrangement (each section has its own staircase and entrance) tend to substantiate the fact that it is believed to have been used in the 1790's and early nineteenth century as a tavern, called Porter's Tavern in the 1840's, located on the Old Montgomery Road which led from Ellicotts Mills to Montgomery Court house and on to Washington D.C.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

threat is the present plan to raze the stone house and main house at Gray Rock, located off Route 144, for a modern subdivision.

In addition to the constant pressure to develop high density areas, the county is also experiencing a need to upgrade its county and state roads.

The Gebhard House is very close to the present Route 108, but future plans for realigning the road would bring the house even closer. Today, the building shakes from the vibrations caused by Route 108 traffic. It is imperative that any future realignment preserve what remains of this site and its very small protective zone north of Route 108.

In conclusion, the Jack Gebhard House is significant historically and architecturally to Howard County and as once a part of "Howard's Fair and Amicable Settlement," used as an old tavern, should be placed on the National Register of Historic Sites as well as the State's Critical Area Program.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Martenet Map of 1860
Hopkins Atlas of 1878
Interview with Mr. Thomas Owens at his home on May 11, 1978.
Interview with Mrs. Jack Gebhard, Ten Oaks Road, May 16, 1978.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.72 Acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 29

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Records Room, Liber 582, folio 183

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

| STATE | COUNTY |
|---|---|
| Maryland | Howard |
| | |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION
Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE
465-5000 x257

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

HO-135

~~140135 7904~~

140135 7904

Jack Gabhard House ~~Stone bldg~~ –

on Rt 108 + the corner of Manor Lane

Elioak

2-story stone bldg –

upper part, mostly frame

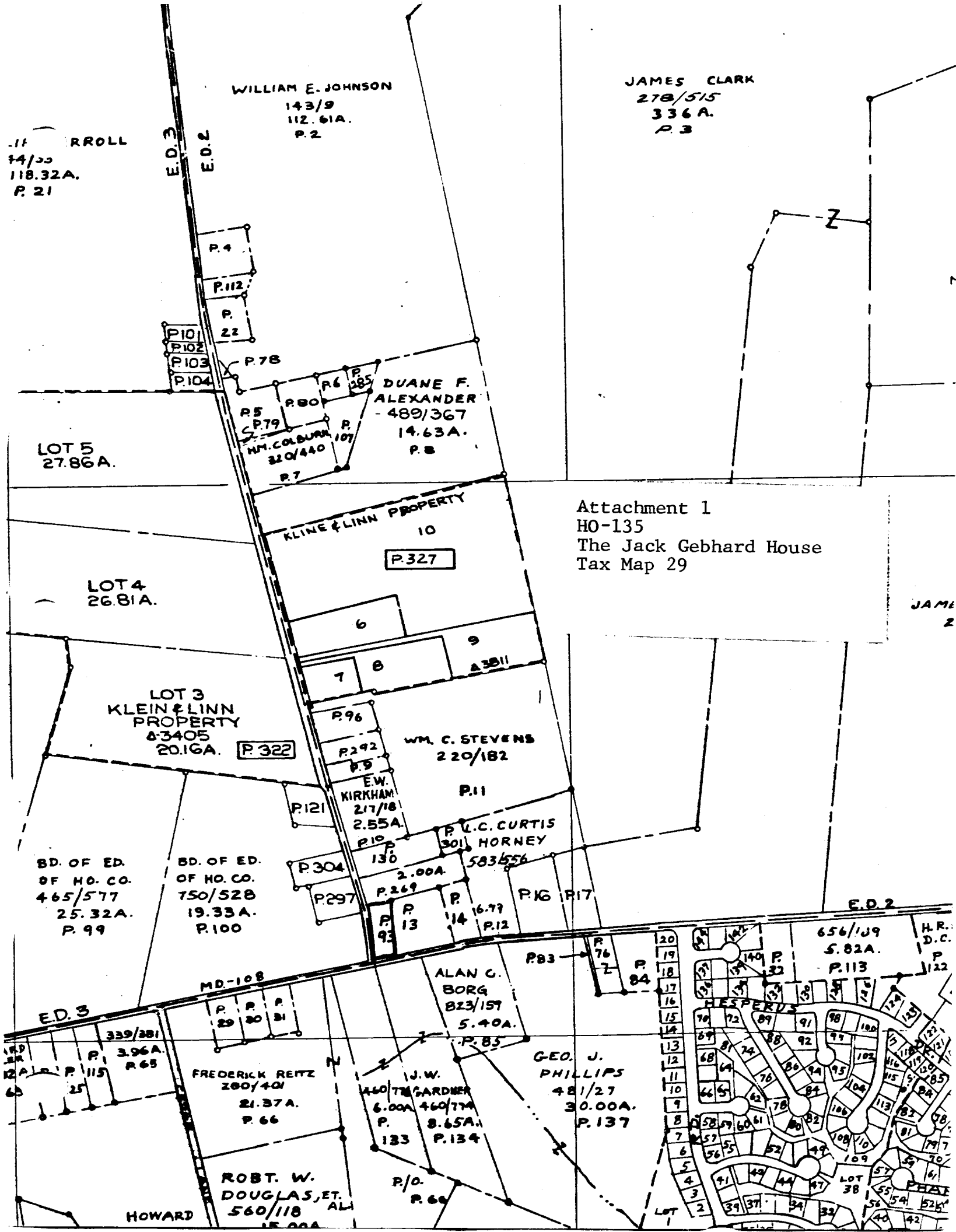
located in field by MDB 7/22/70

tax Map # 29, p. 93

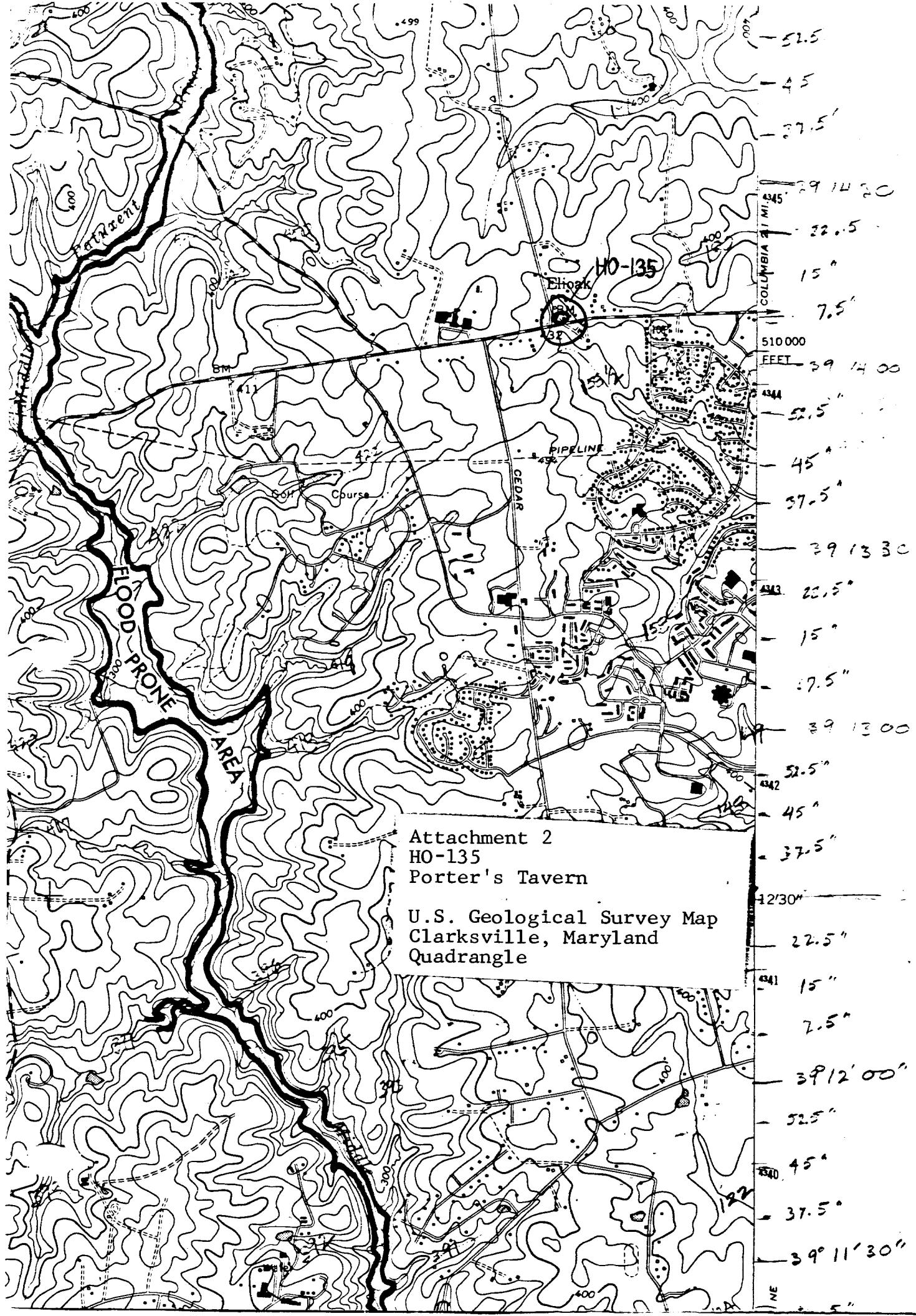
Jack W Gabhard

343/552

0.72 A.




Attachment 1
HO-135
The Jack Gebhard House
Tax Map 29




Attachment 2
HO-135
Porter's Tavern

U.S. Geological Survey Map
Clarksville, Maryland
Quadrangle

Ho-135,
PORTER'S TAVERN
SOUTHWEST
MAY - 1978

CB THOMPSON, AIP