

H0-249

The Ridgely-Mercier House

Lisbon

Private

c. 1890

The Ridgely-Mercier House faces north on the southwest corner of Church Alley and Route 144. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east west) frame building, with square, corceled brick chimneys inset into the center of its east and west walls. Initially the building was constructed in a "T" plan with a two story high, one bay wide, one bay deep, later extended, intersecting gable roof (running north-south) frame addition extending south from the central bay of the building's south wall. This has been filled in on the east elevation by a two story high, semi-enclosed, shed roofed porch, creating the building's present "L" plan. This building is notable historically as the residence of Miss Elsie Pearl Mercier, who according to Mrs. Celia Holland, local historian served Howard County as educator for over forty years and was the granddaughter of Charles Woods of New York, one of three original contractors (Mathew, Woods & Hall) who laid the first B & O railroad tracts from Baltimore to Ellicotts Mills in 1828-29.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

H0-249  
District 4

MAGI #1402495404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
The Ridgely-Mercier House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
15921 Frederick Road (MD 144)

CITY, TOWN  
Lisbon

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
6th

STATE  
Maryland

COUNTY  
Howard

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Poole

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER  
15921 Frederick Road

CITY, TOWN  
Lisbon,

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland 21765

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC  
Hall of Records

Liber #: 818

Folio #: 347

STREET & NUMBER  
Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE  
1978-1979

—FEDERAL  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
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ridgel y-Mercier House faces north on the southwest corner of Church Alley and Route 144. It is a three bay wide, two bay deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame house, built on a stone foundation with square brick chimneys inset into its east and west walls. Several additions have been made to its south wall, which originally formed a "T" plan and later an "L" plan.

The north elevation features a central, one light rectangular entrance surmounted by a two light transom, flanked by single, double-hung, rectangular windows with two-over-two lights, decorated with shutters. A one story high, flat roofed, open porch, held by four scrolled posts with scrolled brackets runs along this elevation. Three vertically aligned and proportionally scaled, second floor windows rest above.

The west elevation of the house holds no apertures, while the east elevation holds two first and second floor, two-over-two, light windows and a four light attic casement window.

Initially a one bay wide, one room deep, two story high intersecting gable roof (running north-south) frame south wing extended from the central bay of the south wall, which held a first and second floor window in its west bay. Later a one bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof extension to the south wall of the base of the "T" was constructed, while along both these additions was constructed a two story high, shed roofed open porch, whose south side was enclosed, leaving the north side open. The first floor of this open section has recently been blocked in by cinder block and it remains open on the second floor, secured by a wooden railing. First and second floor rectangular entrances are located on its east wall.

The interior features open transoms above entrances from one room to another, decorated with scrolled spindles. A fine central staircase leads to the second floor.

The building stands on three/fourths of an acre of ground and except for some cosmetic facelifting is in good condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	Local Hist.
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

---

SPECIFIC DATES	1890	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
----------------	------	-------------------

---

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ridgely-Mercier House is important architecturally and historically to the town of Lisbon and Howard County, Maryland.

Architecturally it is representative of a turn of the century frame house, blending earlier elements of the three or five bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof house with attached kitchen wing forming an "L" plan with later more elaborate interior work, such as the scrolled wood spindles which fill the transoms over interior doors. Not only is its scale and architectural integrity important individually but collectively with the Joggereit and Eswortny House it forms an important element of the building fabric of the early nineteenth century town of Lisbon as well as an important element of the streetscape on the south side of Route 144 between the old Lisbon School and the present Exxon Garage and Service Station. Located on the southwest corner of Church Alley and Route 144, it forms the architectural anchor for the two earlier log houses west and provides a protective barrier for them.

Historically the house is associated with a well beloved lady, the late Miss Elsie Pearl Mercier, who taught in the Howard County school system for over forty years. According to Celia Holland, local historian, she came to Lisbon when the first two-room school was erected and taught at the presently standing old Lisbon Elementary School for some seventeen years between the years 1918-1935. Not only was she a legend in her own right, through the fine service rendered the County as educator but she was also the recipient of a fine family heritage, being the granddaughter of Charles Woods of New York, one of the three original contractors of Matthews, Woods and Hall, who laid the first B & O railroad tracks from Baltimore to Ellicott Mills in 1828 - 1829. Mrs. Holland relates in her article, "Out of the Past: Lisbon" that when passenger service was discontinued in 1949 Miss Pearl, the last known survivor of any of the immediate families was among those who took part in the trip from Ellicott City to Mt. Airy - the B & O's final passenger run.

According to the present owner, Mrs. Poole, the house is said to have been constructed c. 1890, was one of the showplaces of Lisbon and was always available to St. Paul's Episcopal Church as the site for their Annual Silver Tea.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Page 2

- Ridgely-Mercier House

The house is believed to have been built, initially, as a summer residence. Lisbon, for many years was a summer resort for people in Baltimore and Washington. There were no heating facilities until later for the present house, which further substantiates this theory on the part of the owner.

Architecturally and historically significant, the Ridgely-Mercier House, along with the entire town of Lisbon should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Holland, Celia "Out of the Past: Lisbon"  
The Times: Ellicott City, June 21, 1973  
page 1D  
Interview with Mrs. Poole, October 11, 1978

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .75 Acre

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 7 p.234

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 818 Folio 347

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

H0 249

1402495404

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

1. NAME

COMMON: Ridgely - Mercier house

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: South side of Old National Pike about 0.1 mi east of Old Md 97

CITY OR TOWN: Lisbon

STATE: COUNTY:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Bath	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Jane Elaine Ridgely

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Lisbon STATE: Md 21765

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET AND NUMBER: Howard County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City STATE: Md

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 11/203 135/124

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

228  
227  
234

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

tin frame clapboard house, <sup>2 stories high.</sup> faces north,  
 3 bays by 2, L shaped, a wrap  
 running south 2 bays by 1.

The A frame roof/ridge line runs east-  
 west, with a chimney inside either end  
 wall. There is a one-story porch at  
 the front of the house, a two story  
 porch at the side is enclosed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Formerly the home of Miss Kent Mercier whose great grandfather was one of three contractors who built the first B & O tracks from Baltimore to Ellicott City in 1828 and 1829; Charles Woods.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HO-249

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Holland, Cedric, "Out of the Past - Lisbon" Third  
of three articles in Howard County Times, 21 June 73

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

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

STATE:	COUNTY:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **JEAN S EWING**

ORGANIZATION: **MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST** DATE:

STREET AND NUMBER: **25 RIVA ROAD**

CITY OR TOWN: **ANNAPOLIS** STATE: **MARYLAND**

12 State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

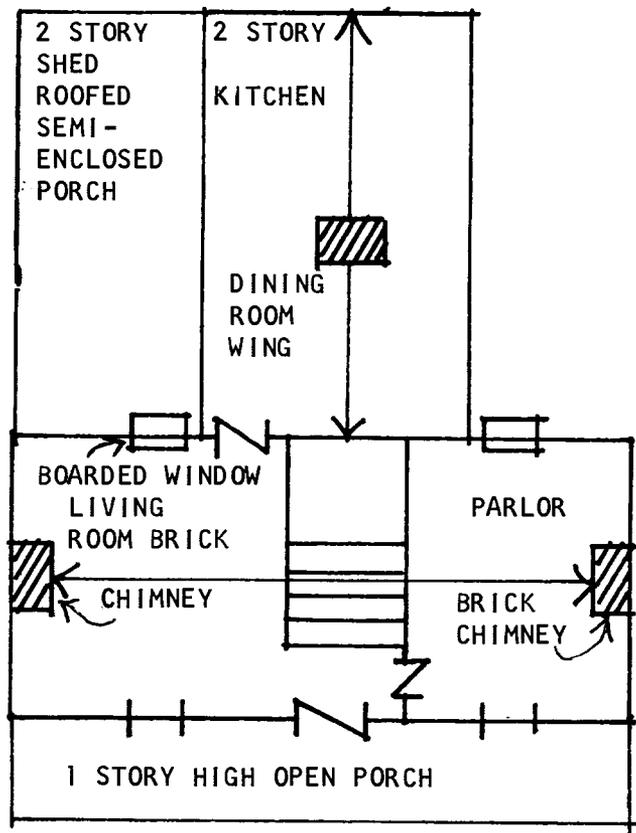
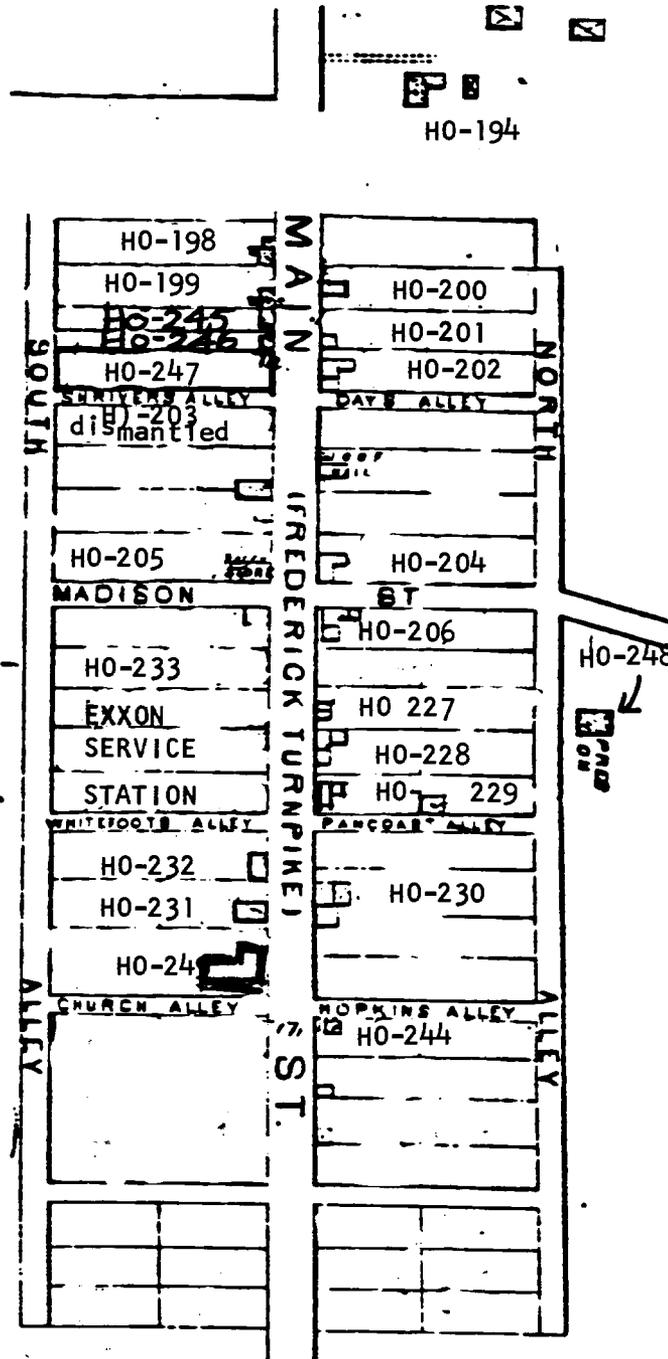


FIGURE 1  
 HO-249  
 THE RIDGELY-MERCIER HOUSE



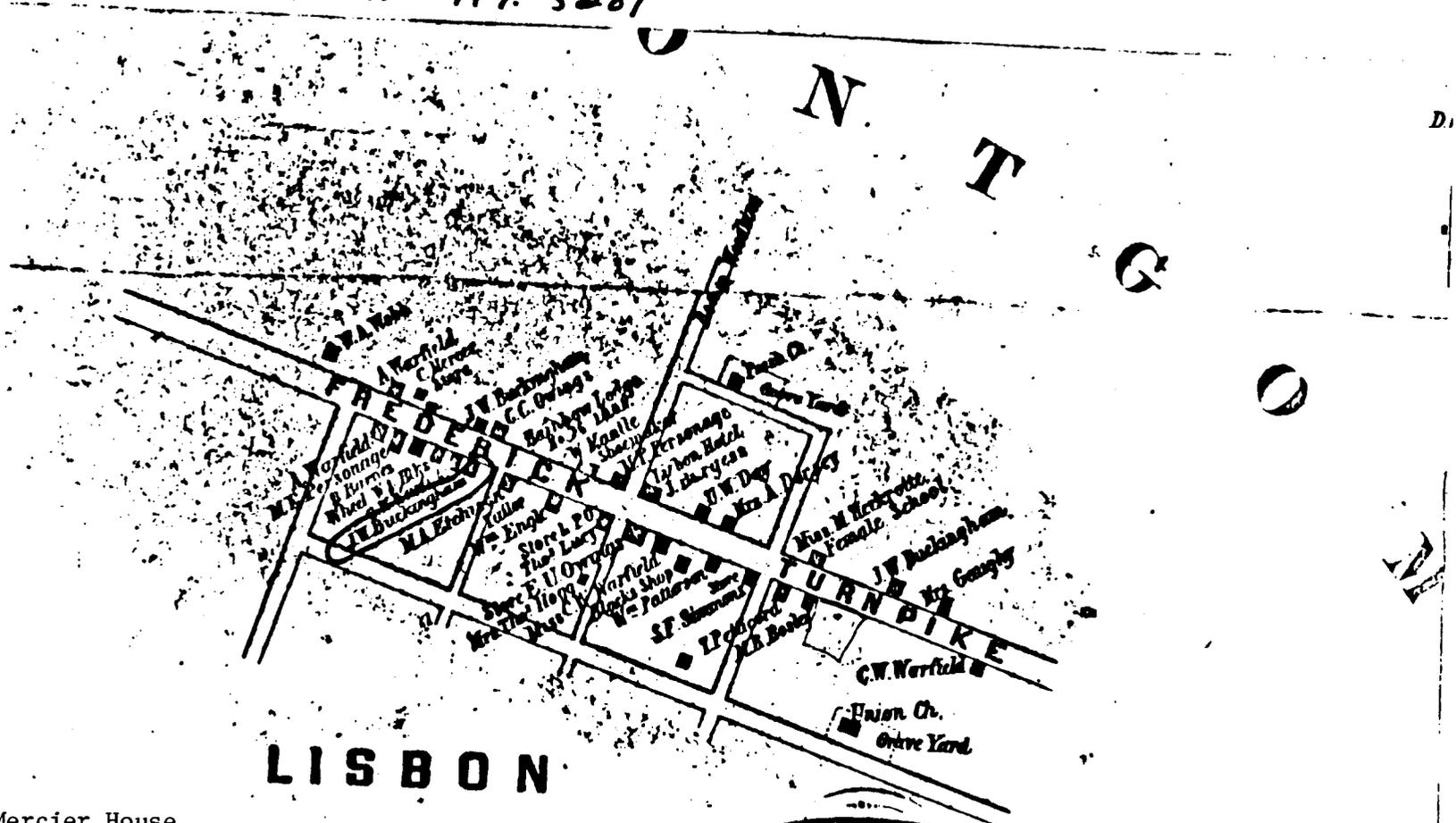
ATTACHMENT 5  
 LISBON HISTORIC  
 DISTRICT  
 HO-NUMBERS  
 CORRESPONDENCE to 1978  
 HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY



Spied from:

Hopkins, Atlas of Howard County, 1878

R. Md. 917. 5281

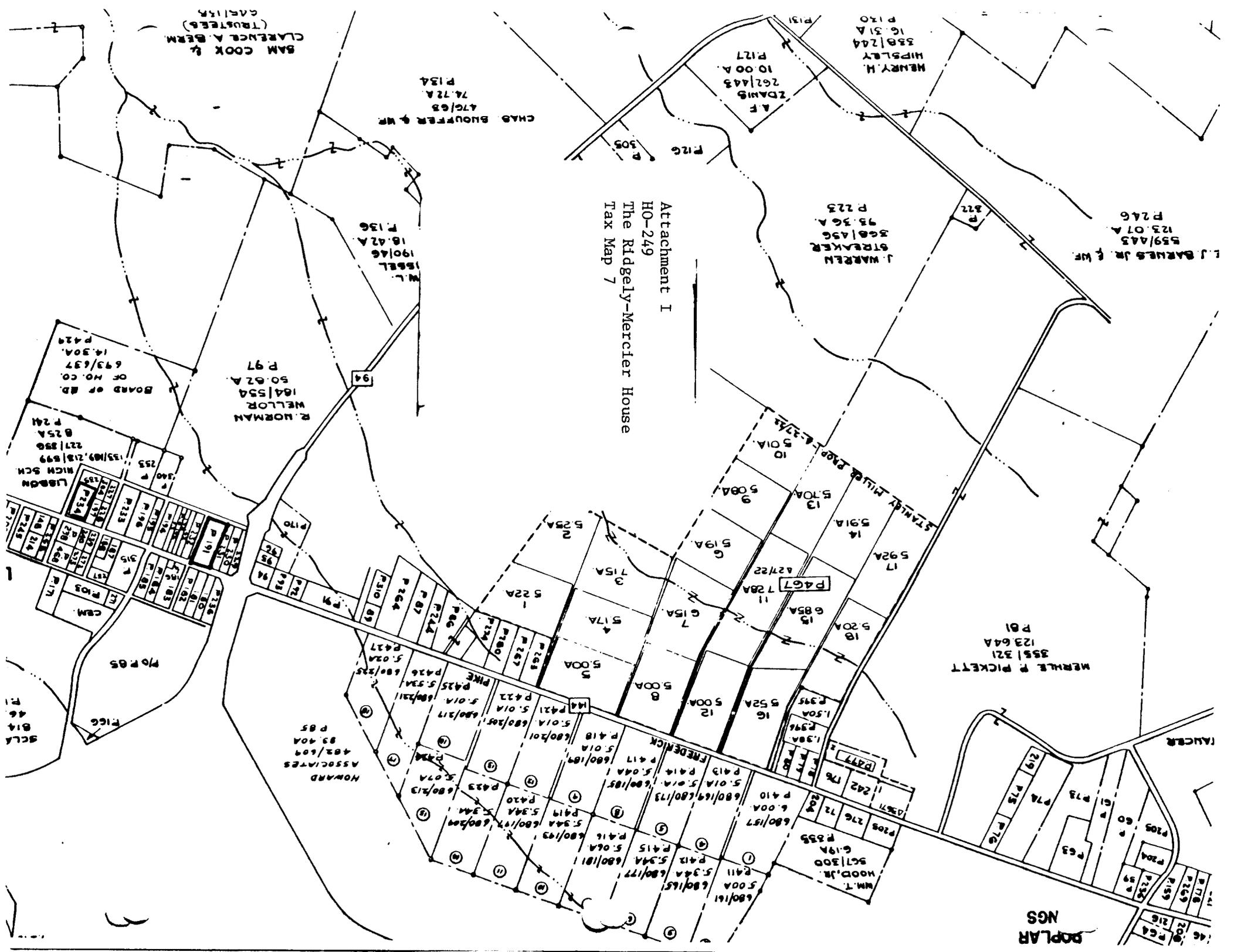


Attachment 3  
 HO - 249  
 The Ridgely-Mercier House  
 Martenet's Map of Lisbon 1860

**MARTENET'S**  
**OF**

HOWARD Co. 1860

Attachment I  
HO-249  
The Ridgely-Mercier House  
Tax Map 7



E.J. BARNES JR. & WF  
559/443  
123.07A  
P 246

J. WARREN  
STREPKER  
558/456  
95.36P  
P 223

HENRY H.  
HIPLEY  
558/244  
16.31A  
P 130

CHAD SHOFFER & WF  
470/63  
74.72A  
P 134

SAM COOK &  
CLARENCE A. BEEM  
(TRUSTEES)  
GARLISH

MERRILE P. PICKETT  
355/321  
123.64A  
P 81

R. NORMAN  
WELLS  
184/55A  
50.62A  
P 97

W.T.  
WELLS  
190/46  
18.42A  
P 136

HOWARD  
ASSOCIATES  
83.40A  
482/609  
P 85

BOARD OF ED.  
OF HO. CO.  
693/637  
14.30A  
P 249

NICH SCH.  
153/109.218/899  
227/350  
8.25A  
P 241

LADON  
48.214  
P 245

MOROS  
FICG

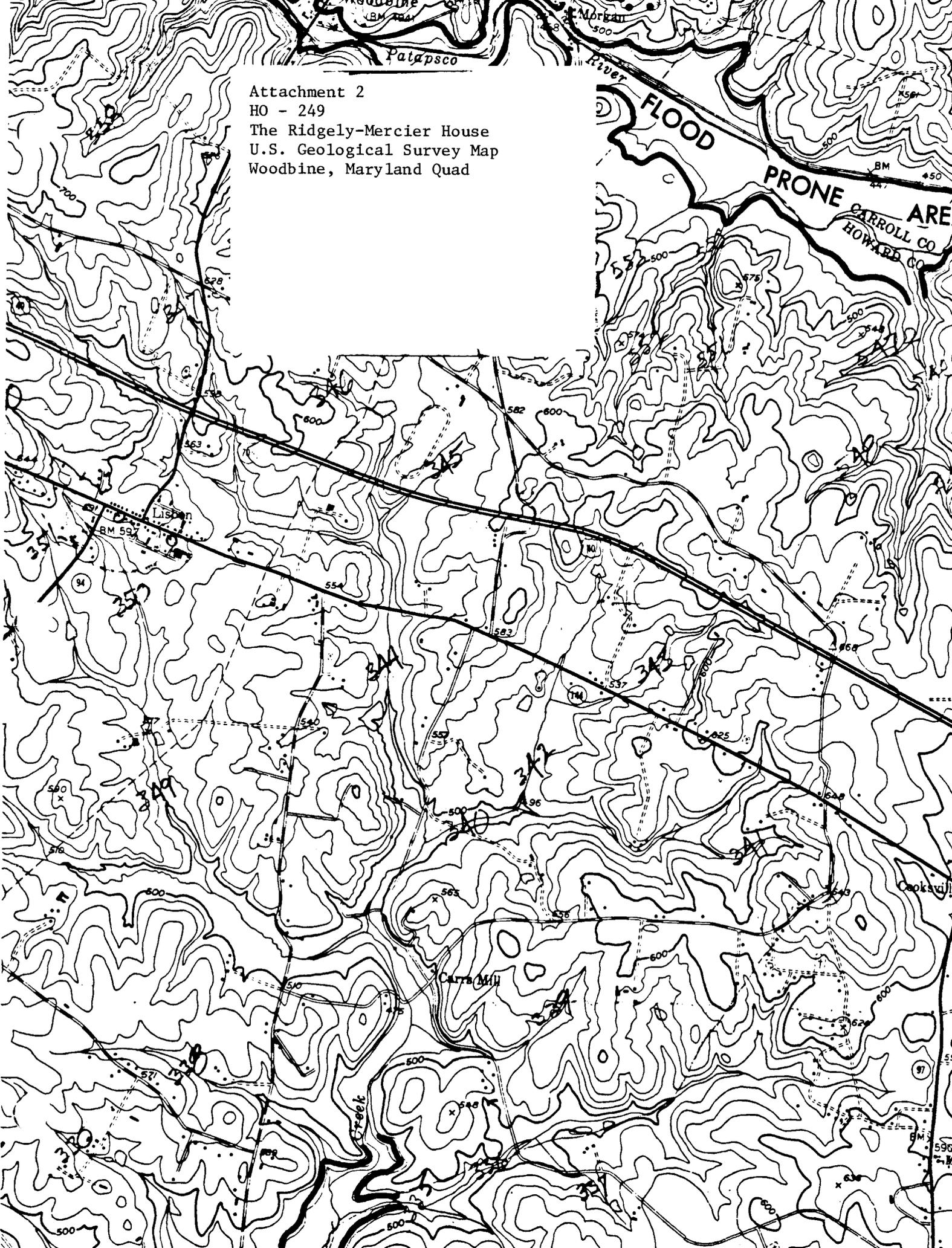
LAUCER

WOOD, JR.  
567/300  
6.19A  
P 555

FREDERICK  
680/187  
5.01A  
P 417

M.T. HOOD, JR.  
500A  
680/177  
5.34A  
P 411

Attachment 2  
HO - 249  
The Ridgely-Mercier House  
U.S. Geological Survey Map  
Woodbine, Maryland Quad



H0-249  
Ridgely-Mercier House

Jennifer K. Cosham  
April 16, 2004  
Digital color photo on file at MHT



HO-249  
Ridgely-Mercer House

Jennifer K. Cosham  
April 16, 2004  
Digital color photo on file at MHT





#0 249

11/73

Mercier  
Ridgely n house

Lisbon



