HO-293 1900
King's Contrivance
Columbia
Private

King's Contrivance, now a restaurant by that name, facing west on the northeast corner of Routes 29 and 32, forms a quiet oasis in the middle of twentieth century residential development, created by the new town of Columbia.

It is a five bay wide, two bay deep, two and a half story high, gabled roof (running north-south), frame (covered with wooden shingles) house, resting on a stone foundation, with two wide, central brick chimneys.

A two bay wide, two bay deep, two and a half story high, intersecting gable roof (running east-west), with hipped roof extension in its southwest corner, frame (covered with wooden shingles) service wing, resting on a stone foundation, extending from the south side of the main building block's east wall, creates an "L" plan.

Two additions have been made to the main block; 1) A one story high, hipped roof, enclosed porch, now used as a dining area, runs along the entire north and two thirds of the east wall, meeting the north wall of the service wing, and 2) A one story high, flat roofed, frame addition along the main block's south wall, which serves as a Tap Room.

The building is characterized by symmetry, balance and scale, dominated on its west facade by a central, Greek Revival, one story high, flat roofed portico, supported by four wooden columns of the Doric Order and featuring a ballustrade, the whole of which has been enclosed to provide an enclosed entrance vestibule for the restaurant, and by the three gabled roof, dormer windows placed in the roof of this same elevation.

King's Contrivance is notable for its association with the Macgill family, whose founder, The Reverend James Macgill came over from England to become the first minister of Christ Episcopal Church.

In 1740, he built Athol, on the opposite side of Route 29. Later, circa 1780, a stone building facing east was constructed on the site where King's Contrivance now stands. Circa 1870, the house was doubled in size, constructed of frame with a mansard roof and Victorian design elements.

In 1899, this house burned to the ground and was immediately rebuilt by Richard Macgill, father of James Macgill, who has served Howard County as a judge for over a quarter of a century.

HO-293
Savage Quad.
Dist. 6

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI# 1402934631

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON King's Contrivance

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Route 32 (Now on Shaker Drive)

CITY, TOWN Columbia ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6th

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Howard

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Howard Research & Development Corp. Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER Attn: Mickie Dunham
P.O. Box 835

CITY, TOWN Columbia ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code Maryland 21044

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Tax Map 42, p. 267 Hall of Records

Liber #: 480
Folio #: 44

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 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

King's Contrivance, facing west on the northeast corner of Routes 29 and 32, forms a small nineteenth century oasis in the middle of twentieth century residential development, created by the new town of Columbia.

It is a five bay wide, two bay deep, two and a half story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame (covered with wooden shingles) house, resting on a stone foundation, with two wide, central brick chimneys.

A two bay wide, two bay deep, two and a half story high, intersecting gable roof (running east-west with hipped roof entension in its southwest corner), frame (covered with shingles), kitchen wing, resting on a stone foundation, extending from the southside of the main building block's east wall, creates an "L" plan.

Two additions have been made to the main block of the building; 1) A one story high, hipped roof, enclosed porch, used as a dining area for the King's Contrivance Restaurant, runs along the entire north and two thirds of its east elevation, wrapping itself around the northeast corner of the building and meeting the north wall of the service wing, and 2) A one story high, flat roofed, frame addition along its south wall.

The building is characterized by symmetry, balance and scale, dominated on its west facade by a central, Greek Revival, one story high, flat roofed portico, supported by four wooden columns of the Doric Order and featuring a ballustrade, the whole of which has now been enclosed to provide an enclosed entrance vestibule for the restaurant, with wide flagstone landing and entrance on the east. The three, gabled roof, dormer windows, placed in the roof of this same elevation, and heavily pedimented also form a strong element.

WEST ELEVATION

The west elevation holds the central rectangular entrance door, covered by the Greek Revival portico already described and flanked by two first floor, rectangular, double-hung windows, holding six-over-six lights, surmounted by flat arched wooden lintels with decorative wooden keys and splayed ends, underlined by projecting wooden sills, and decorated with shutters.

Fenestration on the elevation is proportionally scaled and vertically aligned. All windows are rectangular and double-hung, holding six-over-six lights (including the dormer windows), except the central bay, second floor window, which holds one-over-one lights. Interesting three light, horizontal rectangular windows are decorated

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

in the same way as the first floor windows, resting in the stone foundation.

EAST ELEVATION

The east elevation is dominated by the central gabled roof dormer window, which holds two windows similar to those already described and by a similar gabled roof dormer window, located on the north side of this elevation, which holds a similar single window. Beneath rest a central eight light casement window and a north bay, two light rectangular entrance, which at one time was used as entry to the floor of a porch along this elevation. The north two thirds of this elevation is taken up by the one story high, hipped roof, open porch, which holds, on this wall, seven rectangular, double-hung windows, holding six-over-six lights.

On the south side of this elevation is the east wall of the service wing, which holds two second floor, rectangular, double-hung windows, holding four-over-four lights. The gable end is heavily pedimented, holding two four-light attic windows. This characteristic is repeated in the dormer windows which also feature heavy molding on the perimeter of their pediments.

A one story high, flat roofed frame addition runs along the east wall of the service wing. It holds two rectangular one-one light windows with a rectangular entrance door, fronted by a stoop, located on its south end.

NORTH ELEVATION

A great deal is going on at this elevation for it features the north wall of the service wing, as well as the main block. Here again we find the eaveline of the gable roof of the main building block outlined by heavy molding to form a pediment with a four light attic window and below that a small, rectangular window, similar to those featured throughout the house. Two similar second floor windows rest beneath this pediment and above the hipped roof of the enclosed porch which runs along this entire elevation. It holds a central six-six light French door, flanked by four vertical side lights and surmounted by a five light transom. Six rectangular, double-hung windows, holding six-over-six lights rest on either side of the central entrance which is fronted by two wide stone steps and a brick walk.

The service wing holds a one-one light second floor window on the east and a six light, rectangular casement, service staircase window on the west. An iron fire escape runs along the north side of both the service wing and its frame addition. Inset into the roof of the service wing is a shed roofed, attic dormer window holding a two light window.

SOUTH ELEVATION

The south elevation is dominated by the one story high, flat roofed addition along the south wall of the main building block, which holds two open bible and cross paneled rectangular entrances and

a rectangular, double-hung window with one-over-one lights.

FOUNDATION

The stone foundation for the house and its two huge chimney stacks probably dates from 1870, when the former house, which burned in 1899, was constructed. Several rooms occupy the cellar, among them a large refrigerator room for fresh produce and another large freezer room for frozen foods.

INTERIOR

The interior plan features a central hall and staircase, featuring turned spindles, (running from first to third floors, but now enclosed from the second floor to the attic) and large rooms off either side of the hall. Corner fireplaces are located in the north room with a third located on the north wall of the entrance hall. Throughout the house from first floor to attic are found oak floors with outlined borders.

BILLIARD ROOM

The north room which holds the two corner fireplaces, reminiscent of the eighteenth century, was once a Billiard Room. Today it is used as a large dining area for the restaurant.

The mantlepiece on the northeast corner features fluted pilasters with ovals, urn and garlands, a Federal feature, decorating the architrave. Fluted half-columns flank the northwest corner fireplace. A great deal of detail is featured in the chair rails running around the perimeter of this room, as well as its crown molding, decorated with a row of dentils, which continues around the windows of the room. The woodwork, which frames doors and window openings, is composed of fluted pilasters and lintels, joined by square corners, decorated with circles.

SOUTHWEST ROOM

This room is well lighted by the two west windows of the front facade and features a large central fireplace on its east wall with paneling to the ceiling over the fireplace.

SOUTHEAST ROOM

The southeast room features another large fireplace decorated with a mantlepiece flanked by half columns and composed of a plain architrave.

The dividing wall on either side of the mantlepiece has been opened up to provide better circulation between the adjoining rooms. The south wall of this room completely opens up to the tap room, occupying the south addition, continuing this flow of space.

KITCHEN

The kitchen for the restaurant completely occupies the first floor of the service wing and spills over into its addition, constructed along the east wall of the service wing.

The upstairs has been altered somewhat to accommodate office space, private dining rooms and restrooms.

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
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1900 **BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

King's Contrivance is significant to the history of the State of Maryland and Howard County through its association with the Macgill family, whose founder, The Reverend James Macgill came from England to serve as the first minister for Christ Episcopal Church, the first Episcopal Church in Howard County, which served as a social and governmental focal point in the eighteenth century, as well as a religious one. Many of the settlers of the northern part of Anne Arundel County, now Howard County, were Anglicans and the old church records list Dorseys, Ridgeleys, Warfields and Gaithers as pew holders. The minutes are of interest for they relate to the settling of disputes by the vestry and the reprimanding of certain individuals for poor conduct.

Athol, on the opposite side of Route 29, was constructed by James Macgill in 1740. Later a stone house, facing east, was constructed on the site of King's Contrivance. In the 1870's, this was doubled with a frame addition, crowned with a mansard roof, featuring Victorian detail.

The house burned in 1899 and was rebuilt in 1900, much like today, by Richard Macgill, father of James Macgill, who has served Howard County as Judge for over twenty-five years.

Presently owned by Howard Research and Development Corporation, it is leased by them for use as a restaurant. Retaining some four acres of open space in the middle of heavy residential development, it forms a quiet oasis.

Architecturally, the building is significant as an example of a Neo-Colonial style building, with Federal interior stylistic detail in its crown molding, chairrails and mantlepiece decoration.

It features symmetry and balance in its fine west facade, which features a central entrance, covered by a flat roofed, enclosed porch, proportionally scaled, fenestration, fine first floor window decoration and gabled roof dormers.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

HO-293
Savage Quad.
Dist. 6

Howard County Land Records
Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland,
J. D. Warfield,
Interview with Judge James Macgill of the Howard County Circuit Court on January 28, 1980.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 13.00 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 42

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 480 Folio 44

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

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

King's Contrivance —

Armor Class National Industries.
1890 rebuilt.

Howard

4 mill houses — Foundry & Baltimore St.
bell tower —
stone to 2nd floor — top new —

bridge near by — spokes —
1 span —

HO-90

~~HO 096 7904~~

King's Contrivance

located in field by MDB 7/27/70

formerly belonged to family of Mrs. (Judge) Mayfield

Mrs. Hmoroso 8/3/70

Rte 32, just off Rte 29, Ellicott

for Map # 42

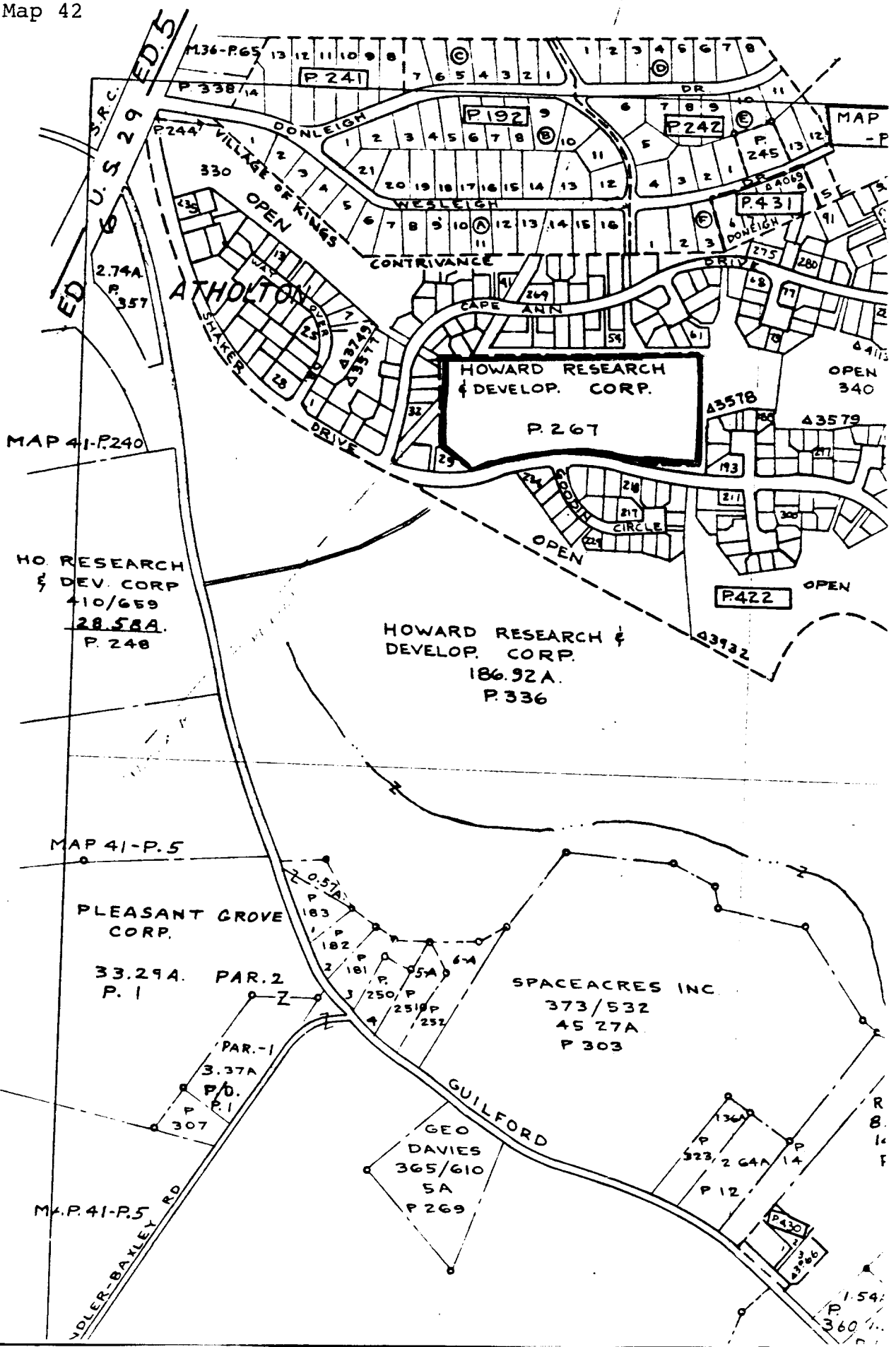
Howard Research + Development Corp.

480/44

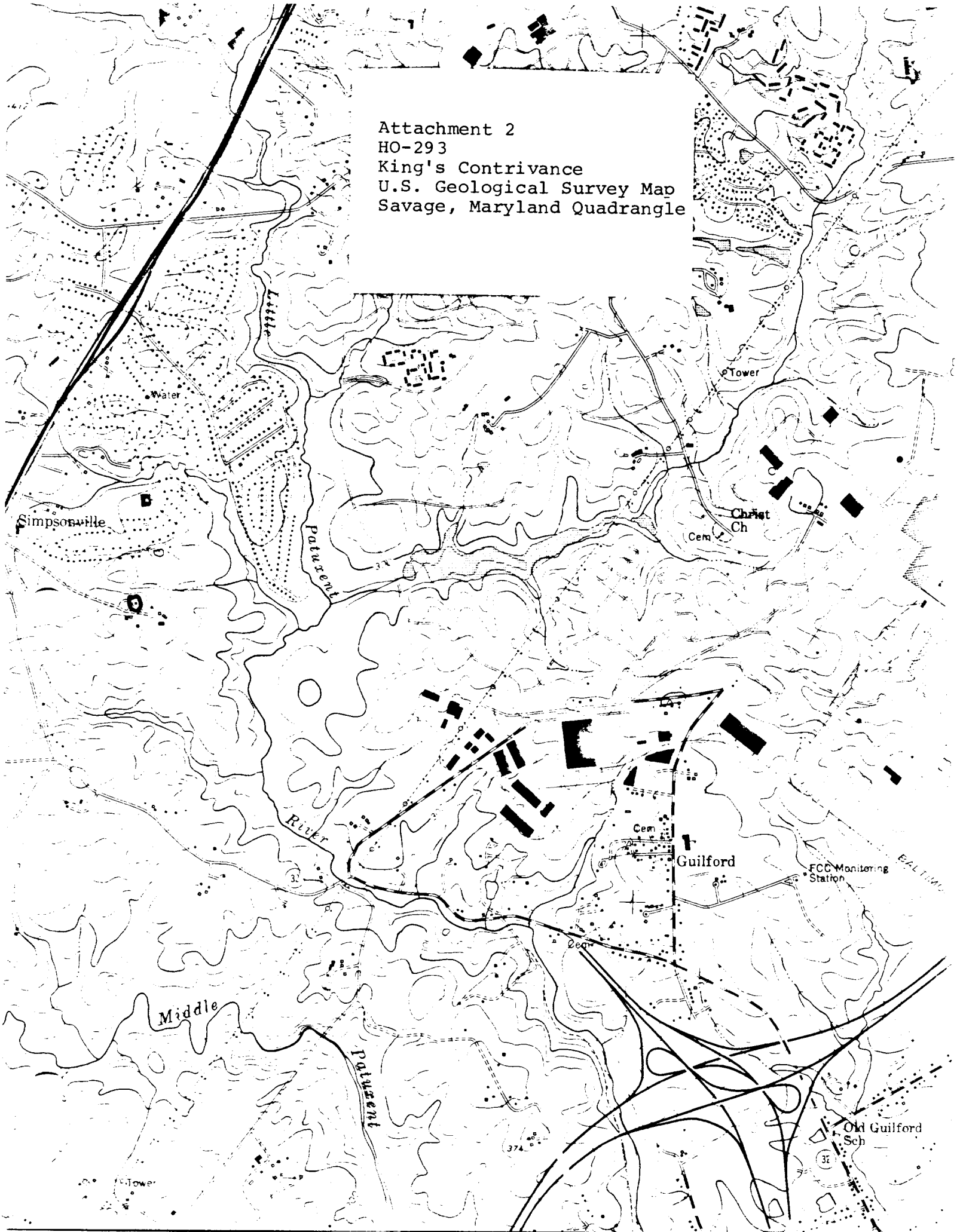
13.00 A.

p. 261

Attachment 1
HO-293
King's Contrivance
Tax Map 42



Attachment 2
HO-293
King's Contrivance
U.S. Geological Survey Map
Savage, Maryland Quadrangle



HO [illegible]
293

4210

King's Contrivance

82 Mar 72

Ho-293
KING'S CONTRIVANCE
WEST
JAN '80

CLEOSA [illegible] THOMPSON
PLANNING CONSULTANT
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY