HO-428
Trinity Chapel Sunday School Building
Pfeiffer's Corner
Private

circa 1872

The Trinity Chapel Sunday School Building faces east, on the southeast corner of Old Montgomery Road and Route 104, known as Pfeiffer's Corner, an old nineteenth century area. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, one story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame ship lap building, resting on a fieldstone foundation with square brick chimney (featuring corbeled brick) inset into its south wall and a one story high, semi-conical roofed, semi-octagonally shaped, frame addition along this south wall.

Two stone steps and a cement landing lead to the central, cross paneled, east entrance door, covered by a gabled roof hood, held by curved brackets, flanked by tall, rectangular, double-hung windows, holding six-over-six lights, decorated with green shutters. The Building was constructed as a Sunday School Building for Trinity Chapel, a mission chapel of Trinity Church, HO-45, which once stood east of this building, with its old nineteenth century cemetery.

HO-428
Dist. 6
MGI #1404285508

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Trinity Chapel Sunday School Building
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
S.E. corner of Pfeiffer's Corner (Waterloo and Old Montgomery Roads)
CITY, TOWN
__ VICINITY OF Pfeiffer's Corner
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	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
X SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Vestry of Episcopal Trinity Church
Telephone #: 799-7974
STREET & NUMBER
7474 Washington Boulevard
CITY, TOWN
Elkridge
__ VICINITY OF
STATE, zip code
Maryland 21227

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 31
Folio #: 331
Tax Map 37
P 560

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Hall of Records
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

HO-428
Dist. 6

ON

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
x	__DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Trinity Chapel Sunday School Building faces east on the southeast corner of Old Montgomery Road and Route 104, known as Pfeiffer's Corner, an old nineteenth century area. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, one story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame ship lap building, resting on a fieldstone foundation, with square brick chimney (featuring corbeled brick) inset into its south wall and a one story high, semi-conical roofed, semi-octagonally shaped, frame addition along this south wall.

Two stone steps and a cement landing lead to the central, cross paneled, east entrance door, covered by a gabled roof hood, held by curved brackets, flanked by tall, rectangular, double-hung windows, holding six-over-six lights, decorated with green shutters.

The west wall holds three similar windows which are presently shuttered, while the north wall holds another similar window, decorated with green shutters, and an opening above in the "A" of the gable which has been blocked. The three windows placed in the three south sides of the semi-octagonal addition are arched and double-hung. The central window holds six-over-six lights, while those on each side hold four-over-four lights.

The interior is now being renovated. It retains its hardwood floors with four inch floor boards, as well as a cross paneled wooden interior door east of the central square brick chimney (used with a stove) on the south wall of the building. This door is surmounted by a two light transom and flanked by rectangular, double-hung windows with six-over-six lights, which leads into the semi-conical roof, south addition. Interior window frames on the west wall (unmitred) appear newly constructed, while dry wall has been recently applied to the building's main room.

PARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

__PREHISTORIC
__1400-1499
__1500-1599
__1600-1699
__1700-1799
X 1800-1899
__1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
__AGRICULTURE
X ARCHITECTURE
__ART
__COMMERCE
__COMMUNICATIONS
__COMMUNITY PLANNING
__CONSERVATION
__ECONOMICS
__EDUCATION
__ENGINEERING
__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
__INDUSTRY
__INVENTION
__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
__LAW
__LITERATURE
__MILITARY
__MUSIC
__PHILOSOPHY
__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
__RELIGION
__SCIENCE
__SCULPTURE
__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__THEATER
__TRANSPORTATION
X OTHER (SPECIFY)
Local History

SPECIFIC DATES 1872 **BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Trinity Chapel Sunday School Building is significant to Howard County, the State of Maryland and the Nation architecturally, as an example of a century old, one story high, frame, rectangular, gabled roof school house building, and historically as the Sunday School Building for Trinity Chapel, of Trinity Episcopal Church, HO-45.

Architecturally, the building was built as a simple, rectangular, one story high, frame building, set on a fieldstone foundation, to which was added a semi-conical roofed, semi-octagonally shaped wing. The building is noteworthy for its simplicity of design, as well as its fine scale and proportion.

The three tall, rectangular windows on the west elevation are balanced on the east elevation by a central entrance, flanked by similar windows. The building is situated on the southeast corner of Pfeiffer's Corner, which brings us to a discussion of its historical significance.

Historically, the building was constructed to serve as a Sunday school for Trinity Chapel, a mission of Trinity Church, at Pfeiffer's Corner. Pfeiffer's Corner was named after a family which held a degree of prominence in Howard County. By the middle of the nineteenth century, a branch of the family had acquired Troy Hill, an old, adjoining, Dorsey Plantation. At about this same time, another Pfeiffer occupied the dwelling, which still stands on the northwest corner of this intersection. It was this family which gave the area its name, Pfeiffer's Corner.

Trinity Chapel was constructed here by Trinity Church, HO-45, on the Washington Boulevard, to serve those families who lived in this area. In those days people usually walked to church, rode in a buggy, or by horseback. Trinity Chapel was only one mile from the Christian family home, rather than four miles. A small three year old child could walk with her father to Chapel one mile, where four miles might be a bit long. Such a three year old, Edith Christian, would walk with her father to chapel. For her, and others like her, the present little building we see today, was constructed to serve as a Sunday School for the chapel. Three classes were taught here. Circa 1891, Mr. Christian, Mrs. Edith Curtis' father, was the Superintendent and taught the oldest class, while Miss Maggie Pfeiffer was the "baby teacher", and Mr. Frank Hamson taught the Middle Class.

By the early twentieth century, four miles distance to Trinity Church on Washington Boulevard did not seem as great as it once had. People now had

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

automobiles, and with this new mode of transportation, Trinity Chapel and its little Sunday School Building, were no longer needed to serve Pfeiffer's Corner. At about this same time, a fire destroyed Trinity Chapel.

The Lutheran Church acquired the surrounding property and built their church there. Those who had attended the little Chapel began to attend Trinity Church and the Sunday School building was left empty, bordered on its east side by the Trinity Chapel cemetery, which now extends to the site of that old chapel. So it remained until recently, when the ladies of Trinity Church decided to renovate and use it as a thrift shop. This decision came about after an attempt was made to have the building burned to the ground, but was denied by the Fire Department, due to its proximity to the old nineteenth century Trinity Chapel Cemetery. The process of renovation is now close to completion, and the building on its way to useful days again.

It is well to remember, however,its former use, and to try to recapture the quiet, rural setting of this area. The words of Mr. Christian, who held daily prayer in his home, can still be remembered by his daughter, Mrs. Edith Curtis, who now lives in the Peter Harmon House, HO-438. "As for me and my house, we will love and serve the Lord". Mrs. Curtis, at 88 years old, carries on her family tradition, only recently, (March, 1979) holding Lenten Bible Study weekly in her home, not far west of the little building in which her father acted as superintendent, and she as pupil.

Old Montgomery Road now runs through Columbia, and has become broken by Route 175 and reestablished again south of 175. The quiet country places begin to fade with the heavy development of a county located midway between Baltimore and Washington. Such quiet country places are all the more important now, and such buildings more significant.

For these reasons, the Trinity Chapel Sunday School Building should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the State Critical Areas Program and any local landmarks ordinance, which the citizens of Howard County may seek to initiate.

HO-428
Dist. 6

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mrs. Edith Curtis, 5740 Waterloo Road, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 (465-4916)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .75 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 37

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 31 Folio 331

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

STREET & NUMBER
3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
Ellicott City

STATE
Maryland

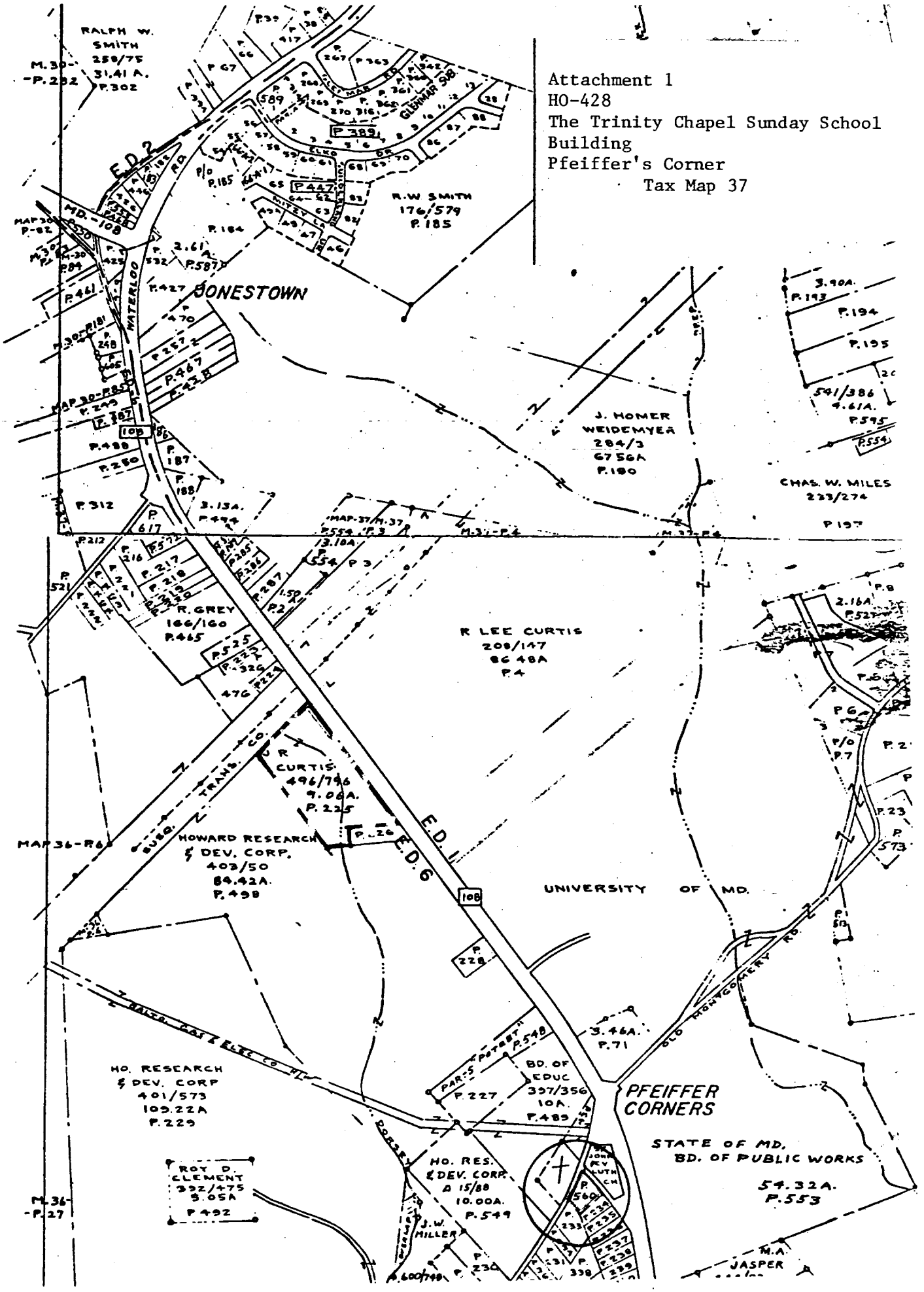
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

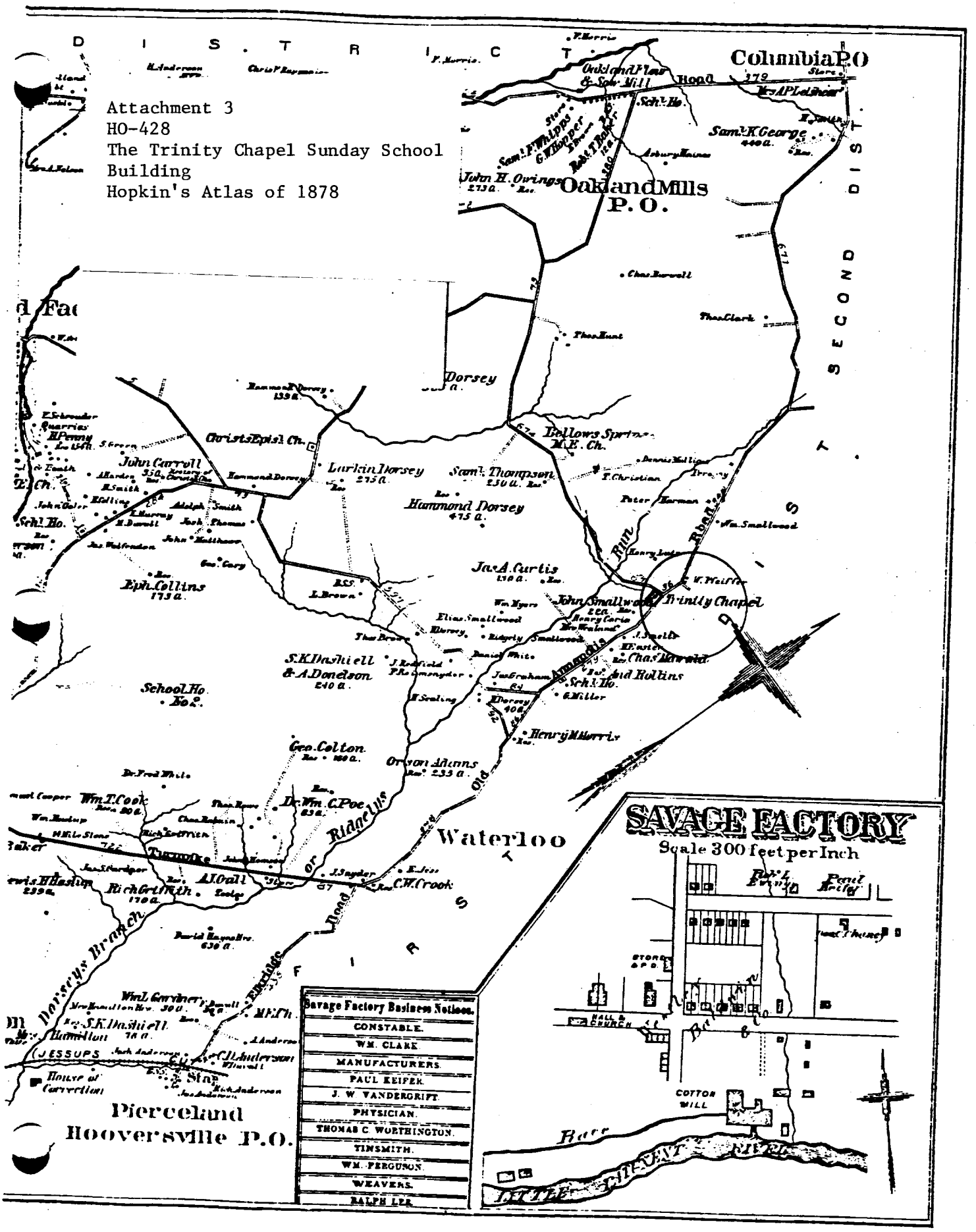
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

PS-1108

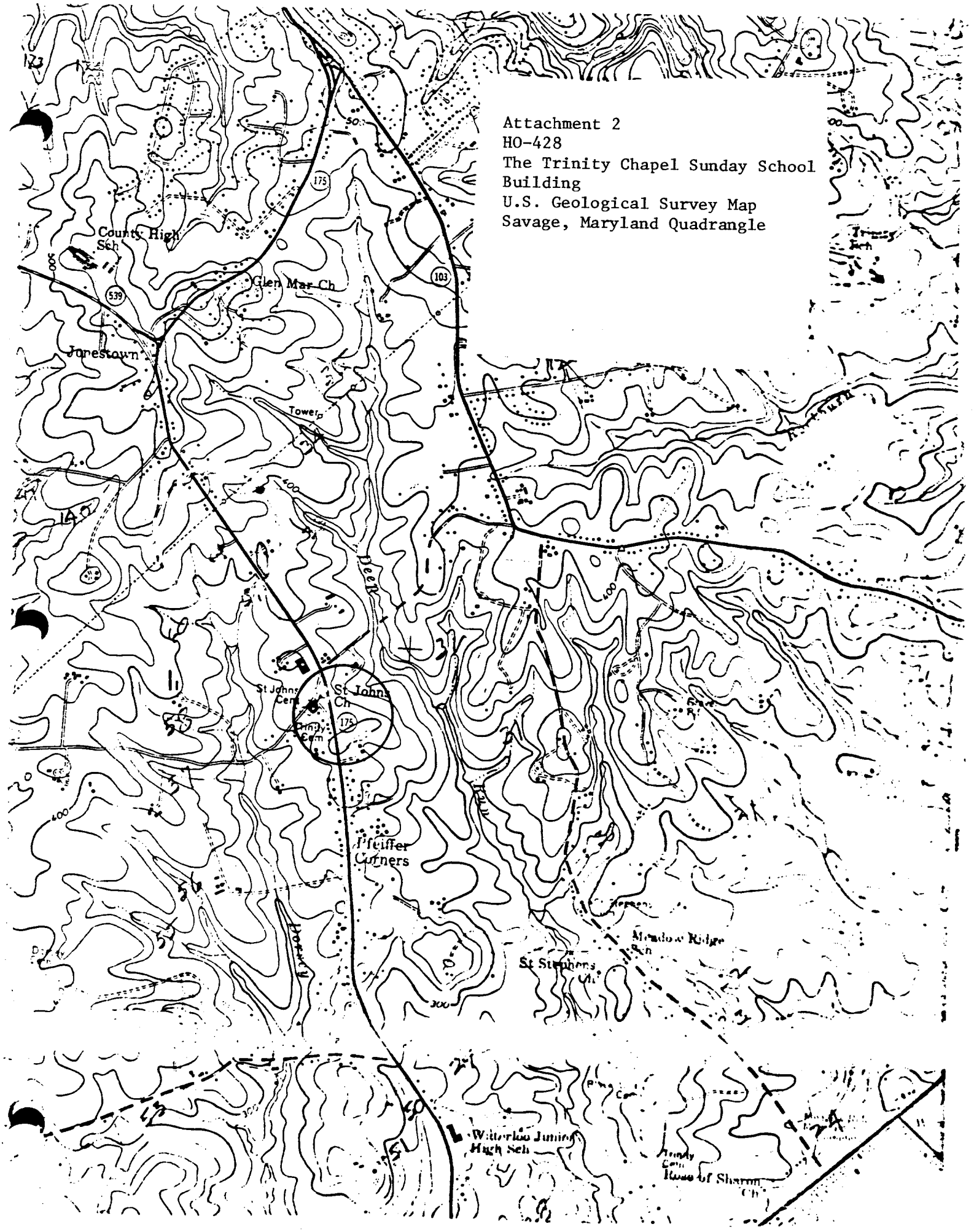
Attachment 1
HO-428
The Trinity Chapel Sunday School Building
Pfeiffer's Corner
Tax Map 37



Attachment 3
HO-428
The Trinity Chapel Sunday School Building
Hopkin's Atlas of 1878



Attachment 2
HO-428
The Trinity Chapel Sunday School Building
U.S. Geological Survey Map
Savage, Maryland Quadrangle



HD-428
TRINITY CHAPEL SUNDAY SCH BLDG
SOUTHEAST

C B THOMPSON, AICP
MAR, 79