**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**
**NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property Name: Lift-the- Latch Inventory Number: HO-444
Address: 6176 Lawyers Hill Road, Elkridge, Maryland 21075
Owner: Mr. and Mrs. James B. Davis, 6176 Lawyers Hill Road, Elkridge, Maryland 21075
Tax Parcel Number: P.12 Tax Map Number: 32
Project: Lawyers Hill Historic District I-95 NB: Mongomery Rd to I-895, Howard County, MD Agency: MDOT/SHA
Site visit by: SHA Staff: X no ___ yes Name _____ Date _____
Eligibility recommended X Eligibility **not** recommended ____
Criteria: ___A ___B X C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None
Is property located within a historic district? ___ no X yes Name of district Lawyers Hill Historic District
Is district listed? ___ no X yes 1993
Documentation on the property/district is presented in: *(provide name of Report)* Project Review and Compliance Files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*
Lift-the-Latch (HO-444) is a one-and-a-half-story cottage that is a contributing element in the Lawyers Hill Historic District listed in 1993. The house was recorded in the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory of Historic Properties in 1977. The current evaluation was undertaken to determine the property's individual eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places as part of a noise barrier analysis.

The current appearance of the dwelling is the same as that recorded in the 1977 MIHP inventory form. The lapped wood exterior cladding, wood-frame windows, entry door, and wood-paneled shutters appear to be original. The cottage retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The house was constructed in 1914 on land formerly part of the "Hursley" estate. The house was designed by Brognard Okie (1875-1945), a Philadelphia architect who was first cousin to Mrs. Clara Hemphill Davis, the original owner. The house descended to daughter Rebecca Davis, then to her nephew. Bognard Okie (1875-1945) was a noted architect and a fellow of the American Institute of Architects (elected in 1932). He resided in New Jersey and maintained an office in Philadelphia where he practiced independently except for a brief time in the firm of Duhring, Okie, and Ziegler. Okie's firm specialized in the design of planned communities in the Philadelphia area in the early 1900s. The majority of his designs were based on medieval prototypes. Okie also specialized in the restoration of historic buildings. Noted examples of his work include the reconstruction of High Street in Philadelphia for the 1925-1926 Sesqui-Centennial Exposition; restoration of the Betsey Ross House; reconstruction of William Penn's Manor House; and, restoration of churches in Paxton and Silver Springs, Pennsylvania (Withey 1970).

Lift-the-Latch is individually significant under Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places for its architecture. The building embodies the distinctive characteristics of a period revival cottage and represents the work of a master, Brognard Okie. The property boundary is defined by the current parcel. Contributing elements include the circular driveway, the lawn located north of the house, and the mature trees. Non-contributing elements include the one-car, board-and-batten garage and the open-sided wood shed.
Prepared by: Katherine Grandine, Historian/Senior Project Manager, R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., July 2000

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**
~~Individual~~ **Eligibility recommended** X **Individual Eligibility not recommended** ____
**Criteria:** ___A ___B X C ___D **Considerations:** ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None
**Comments:** eligible as a contributing resource

[signature] 8/29/00 **Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services** **Date**
[signature] 10/18/00
**Reviewer, NR program** **Date**

Inventory No. HO-444

RESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS

**I. Geographic Region:**

| | |
|---|---|
| ____ Eastern Shore | (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil) |
| ____ Western Shore | (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's) |
| X Piedmont | (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery) |
| ____ Western Maryland | (Allegany, Garrett and Washington) |

**II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:**

| | |
|---|---|
| ____ Rural Agrarian Intensification | A.D. 1680-1815 |
| ____ Agricultural-Industrial Transition | A.D. 1815-1870 |
| X Industrial/Urban Dominance | A.D. 1870-1930 |
| ____ Modern Period | A.D. 1930-Present |
| ____ Unknown Period ( ___ prehistoric ___ historic) | |

**III. Historic Period Themes:**

____ Agriculture
X Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
____ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
____ Government/Law
____ Military
____ Religion
____ Social/Educational/Cultural
____ Transportation

**IV. Resource Type:**

Category: Building
Historic Environment: Suburb
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic
Known Design Source: Brognard Okie

Ho-444
Lift-the-Latch
Elkridge
Private

1914

Lift-the-Latch faces east on the north side of Lawyers Hill Road just west of the Dobbin-Warner House, upon whose previously owned property this charming house stands. It is a three bay wide, two bay deep, one and a half story high, gable d roof (running north-south) frame structure with a wide exterior stone chimney located just east of center on the south wall. A shed roofed one story high, stone bay window lies just east of the chimney and flush with it, holding a rectangular double-hung window with six-over-six lights.

The north elevation is perfectly symmetrical, holding two first floor tripartite windows and two second floor windows and four square four light attic windows above.

In addition there are two gabled roof dormer windows on the east elevation and a shed roofed dormer window on the west.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Ho-444
Dist.1
MAGI #140444 5704

# INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC: Lift-the-Latch

AND/OR COMMON:

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 6176 Lawyers Hill Road

CITY, TOWN: Elkridge — VICINITY OF: — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Sixth District

STATE: Maryland — COUNTY: Howard

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

**CATEGORY**
- X DISTRICT
- __ BUILDING(S)
- __ STRUCTURE
- __ SITE
- __ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**
- __ PUBLIC
- X PRIVATE
- __ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- __ IN PROCESS
- __ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**
- X OCCUPIED
- __ UNOCCUPIED
- __ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**
- X YES: RESTRICTED
- __ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- __ NO

**PRESENT USE**
- __ AGRICULTURE
- __ COMMERCIAL
- __ EDUCATIONAL
- __ ENTERTAINMENT
- __ GOVERNMENT
- __ INDUSTRIAL
- __ MILITARY
- __ MUSEUM
- __ PARK
- X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- __ RELIGIOUS
- __ SCIENTIFIC
- __ TRANSPORTATION
- __ OTHER

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Ms. Rebecca H. Davis — Telephone #: 796-1176

STREET & NUMBER: 6176 Lawyers Hill Road

CITY, TOWN: Elkridge — VICINITY OF: — STATE: Maryland, zip code 21227

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 581
Folio #: 431

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: 1977 — __ FEDERAL X STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN: 21 State Circle, Annapolis — STATE: Maryland

# 7 DESCRIPTION

Ho-444
Dist 1

| 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

Lift-the-Latch is located on the north side of Lawyers Hill Road just west of the Warner-Dobbin House and one mile east of the intersection of Montgomery Road and Lawyers Hill Road. The house faces east holding a central rectangular four light entrance door flanked by rectangular six-over-six light rectangular windows. Above rest two gabled roof dormer windows, holding six-over-six light windows.

The house is a three bay wide, two bay deep, one and a half story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame structure with a wide exterior stone chimney located just east of center on the south wall. A shed roofed one story high stone bay window lies just east of the chimney and flush with it, holding a rectangular double-hung window with six-over-six lights. The north elevation (Please see figure 1) is perfectly symmetrical, holding two first floor tripartite windows each component a six-over-six light rectangular window and two second floor double hung windows holding six-over-six lights, with four four light attic windows above. The gable roof extends east and west forming cover for the east and west open porches.

The west elevation of the house holds a second floor shed roofed dormer window, holding two double hung, rectangular windows, holding six-over-six lights. One story high open porches are formed by the drop of the gabled roof on the east and west elevations. A one story shed roofed pantry addition lies just north of the six-over-six light kitchen window on the west elevation.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

Ho-444
Dist 1

| 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 |
| __1700-1799 | __ART | __ENGINEERING | __MUSIC | __THEATER |
| X 1800-1899 | __COMMERCE | __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION |
| __1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | __INDUSTRY | __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | __OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | __INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1914 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lift-the-Latch was built by Mr. Robert Coates in 1914 for Mr. and Mrs. Marion Davis after a design by Mrs. Davis' first cousin, Brognard Okie, a Philadelphia architect. He had a special flair for colonial architecture and specialized in the renovation of historic buildings. In addition he was a collector of old locks, latches and artifacts. The latch of the front door is one such collector's item.

Mr. Marion Davis founded the Davis-Hemphill Company in Elkridge on Furnace Road in 1906. In 1956 they celebrated their golden anniversary. He and his wife lived in several places before building this house in 1914, among them the tenant house belonging to the Dobbin-Warner House just east of the present property now owned by Rebecca H. Davis, his daughter.

Architecturally it is a charming example of cottage architecture of the early twentieth century, featuring rectangular, double-hung windows with six-over-six lights and low pitched gable roof with gabled and shed roofed dormer windows.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ho-444
Dist 1

Howard County Land Records
Interview with Ms. Rebecca Davis
at Lift-the-Latch on December 29, 1977

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.51 Acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 32

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records
Liber 581 Folio 431.

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 / DATE
Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section 465-5000 x257

STREET & NUMBER / TELEPHONE
3450 Court House Drive

CITY OR TOWN / STATE
Ellicott City Maryland

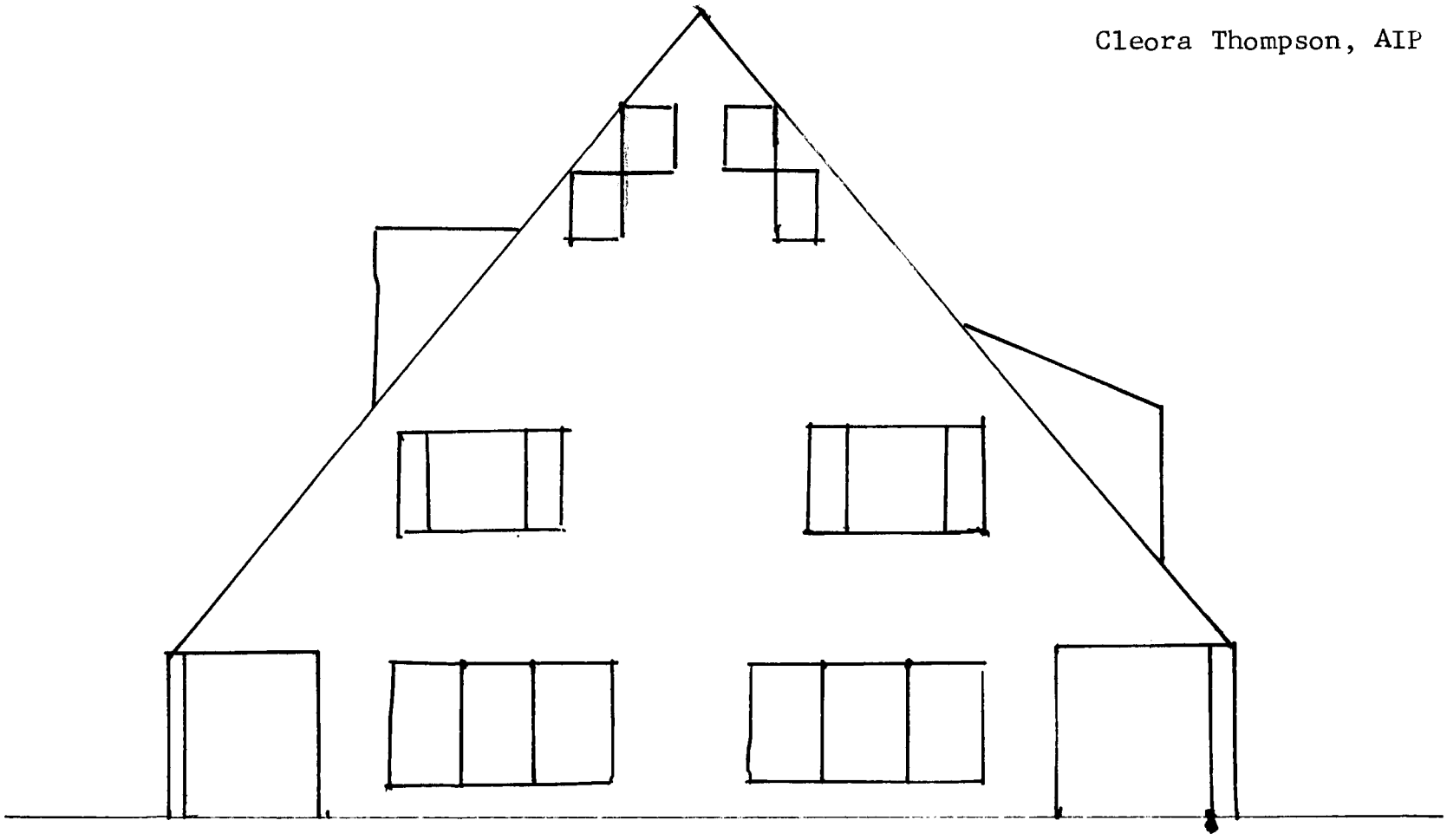
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

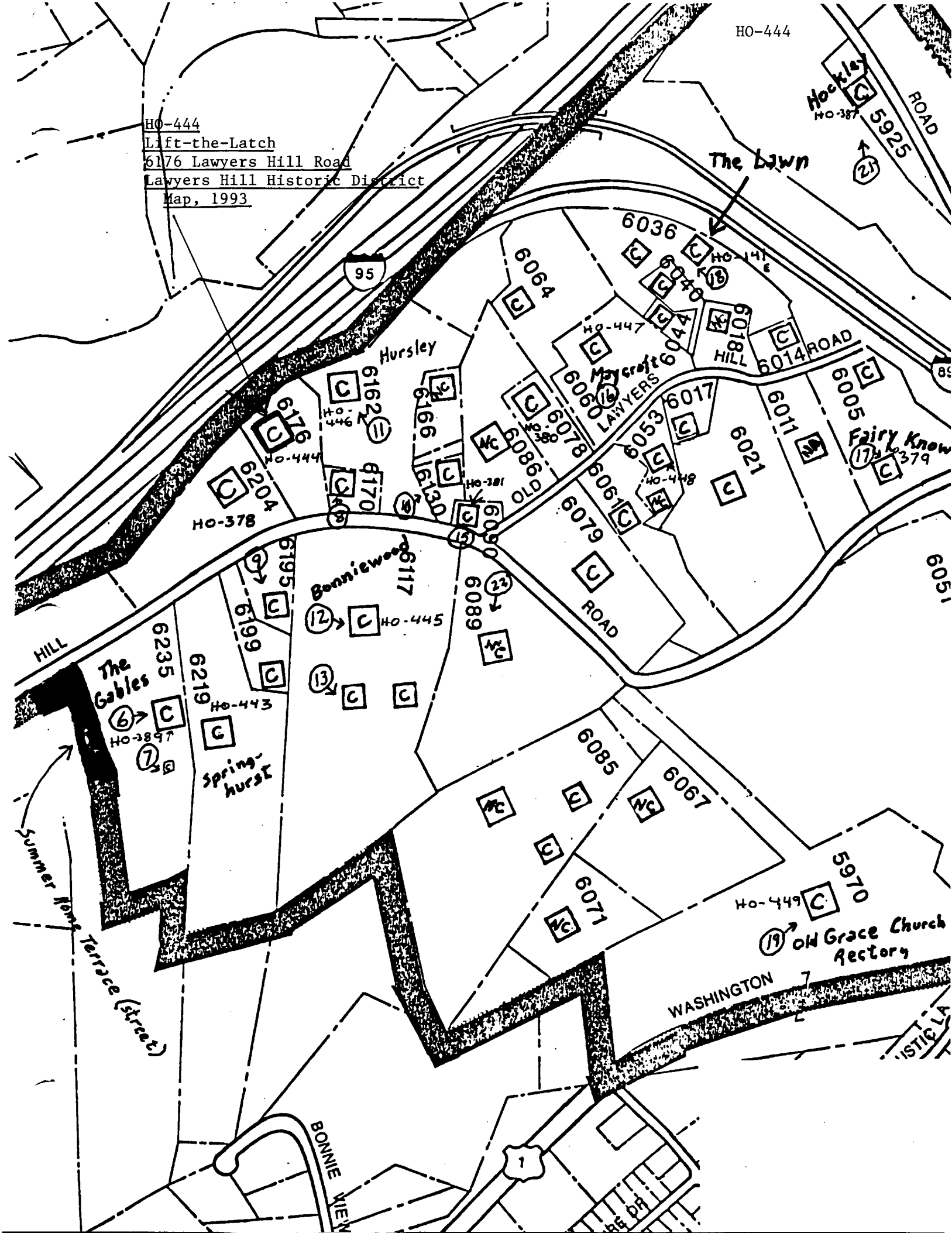
Figure 1
HO-444
Lift-a-Latch

Cleora Thompson, AIP

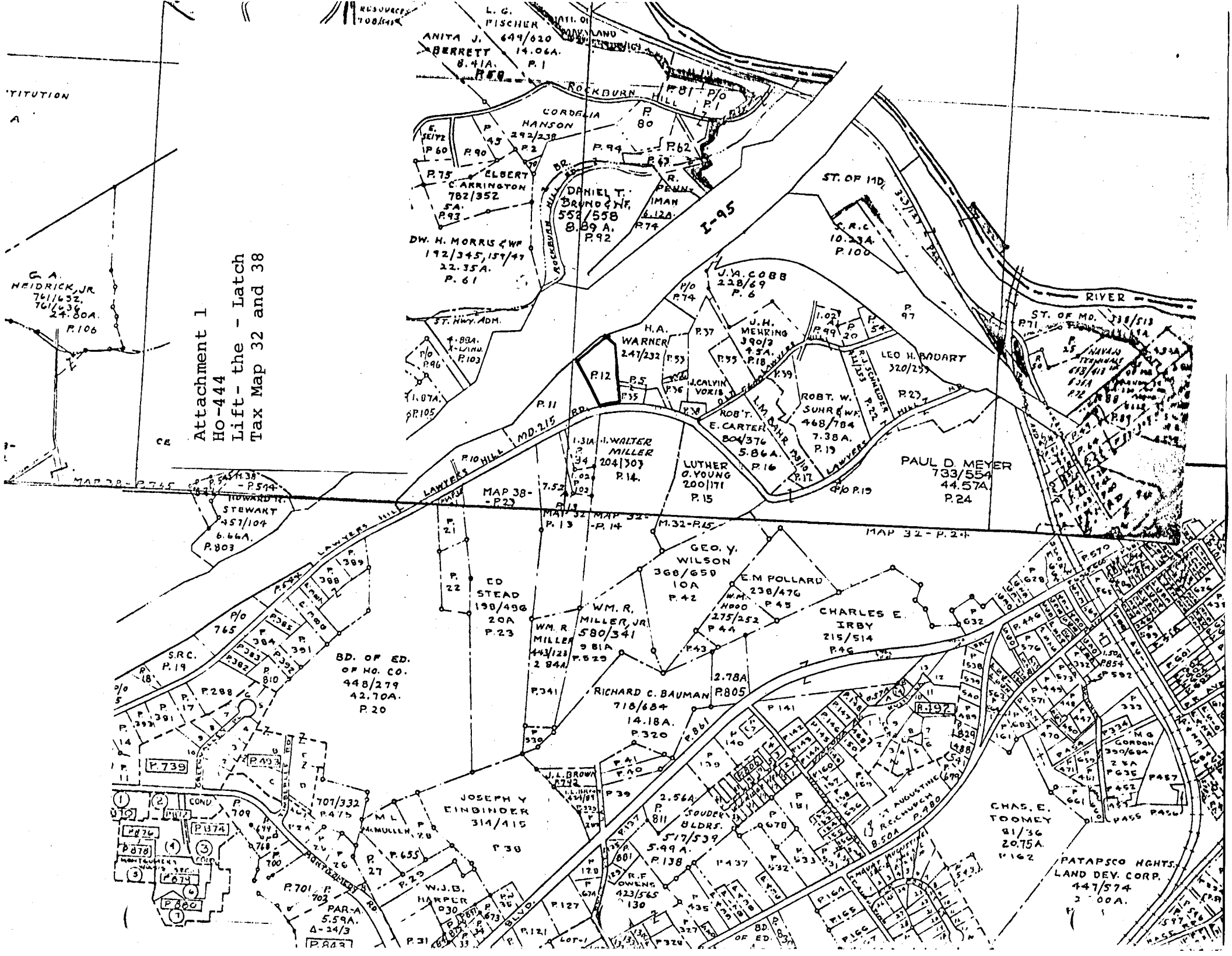


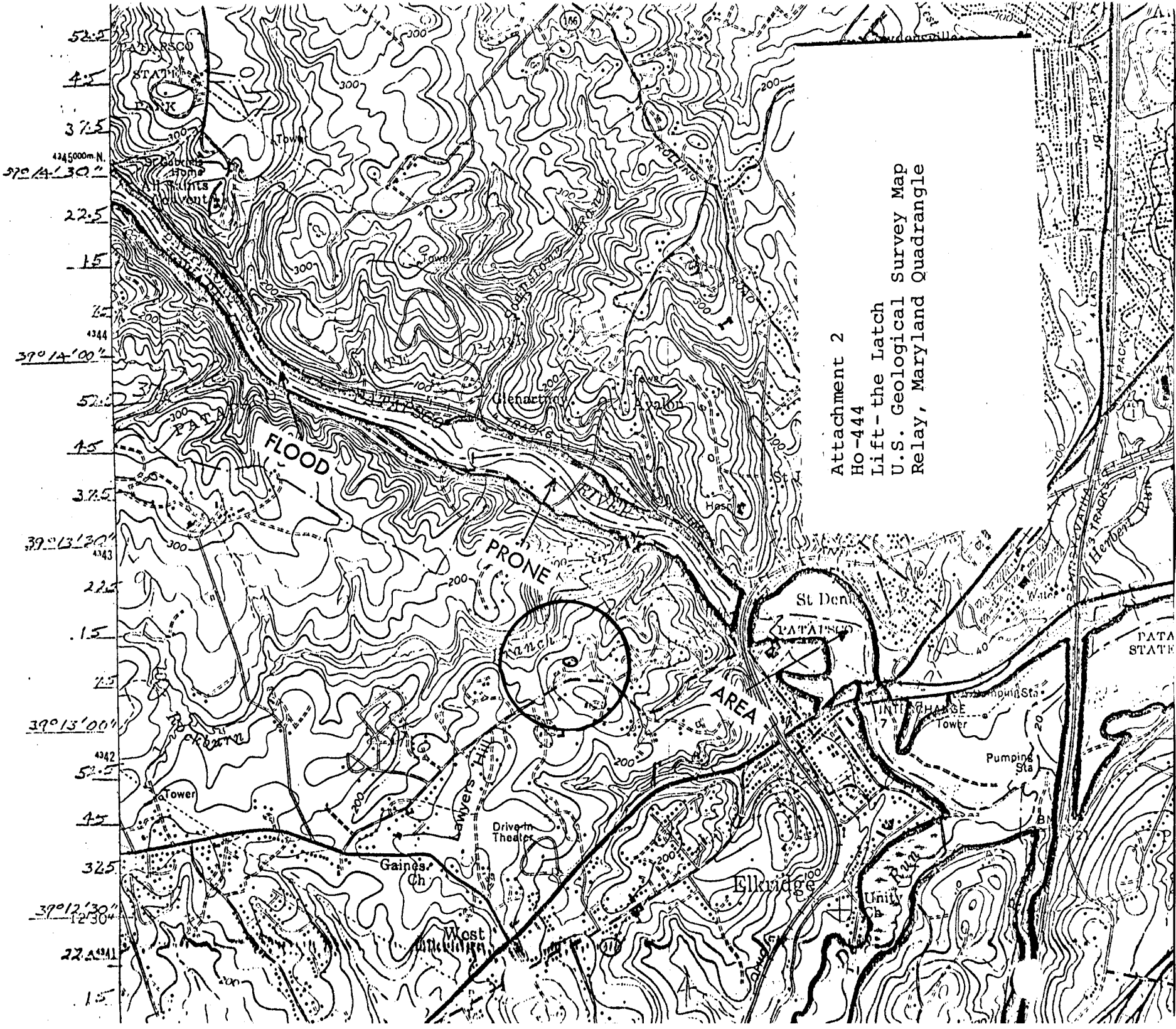
NORTH ELEVATION

HO-444
Lift-the-Latch
6176 Lawyers Hill Road
Lawyers Hill Historic District
Map, 1993



Attachment 1
Ho-444
Lift- the - Latch
Tax Map 32 and 38






Attachment 2
Ho-444
Lift-the Latch
U.S. Geological Survey Map
Relay, Maryland Quadrangle

Ho-444
Lift-the-Latch
South
CB Thompson, AIP
Dec. 1977