HO - 450 1840
The Goldbeater's Cottage
Elkridge
Private

The Goldbeater's Cottage faces south at the west end of Rockburn Branch Road. It is a four bay wide, one room deep, gabled roof (running east-west),one story high, frame (covered with one foot wide chestnut siding, featuring square headed nails) building, resting on a fieldstone foundation, with square brick central chimney and one story high, shed roofed addition along its west wall. A one story high, shed roofed, open porch runs along the south elevation, supported by five square posts, which covers the two original, beaded batten wood, south entrance doors, located in the end bays of the building.

The building features a large second floor east window for the entry and egress of furniture, an original front door lock and key and mortice and tenon construction.

The building is most notable as the home of Mr. Batturs, the goldbeater, who had his shop just north of this cottage in the early twentieth century.

HO-450
Relay Quad
Dist. 1
MACI # 1404509404

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Goldbeater's Cottage

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 6159 Rockburn Hill Road

CITY, TOWN: Elkridge ___ 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	__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. & Mrs. Paul V. Guercio Telephone #: 301-796-1886

STREET & NUMBER: 6159 Rockburn Hill Road

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

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Tax Map 32, p. 94 & 80 Hall of Records

Liber #:	p. 94	p. 80
Folio #:	463	568
	740	616

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	X UNALTERED	__ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Goldbeater's Cottage faces south at the west end of Rockburn Branch Road. It is a four bay wide, one room deep, gabled roof (running east-west), one story high, frame (covered with one foot wide chestnut siding, featuring square headed nails) building, resting on a field stone foundation, with square brick central chimney and one story high, shed roofed addition along its west wall. A one story high, shed roofed, open porch runs along the south elevation, supported by five square posts, which covers the two original, beaded batten wood south entrance doors located in the endbays of the building. That located in the east bay holds an original key and lock, as well as the brass door knob and original iron hinges. Two central bay rectangular, double-hung windows held six-over-six lights, flanked by flat pilasters, surmounted by flat lintels and underlined by flat sills. The main studs of the building are hand-hewn or rough cut, four-by-fours, with the plate around the perimeter of the building featuring mortice and tenon joints, held together with wooden pegs. The roof joists are of white birch logs, holding wide boards covered with wooden shingles, which in turn have been covered by a tin roof.

The interior once held tongue and groove wainscotting around all the walls, which has now been covered with paneling.

THE EAST ELEVATION:

The east elevation holds a vertically, aligned first and attic floor window, similar to those described on the south elevation. The attic window is larger than any and was used to accommodate entry of furniture for this floor of the house.

THE NORTH ELEVATION:

The north elevation holds a rectangular, beaded, battenwood, dutch door with a six light window west of it and a six-over-six light kitchen window in the west bay, beneath which rests a cellar window. Ashed roofed, enclosed porch was once placed in front of the north entrance.

The square brick interior chimney in the center of this wall has a mortar composed of a great deal of limestone and Rockburn Branch sand.

THE WEST ELEVATION:

The west elevation holds a rectangular entrance door entering the one story high, shed roofed addition along this wall. This addition burned down and has since been reconstructed with exterior plywood siding. A rectangular six light sliding window rests on the south side of this addition's west wall. Above rests a four light, rectangular sliding attic window.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

North of the house once stood a 15' X 20' shed with loft, used by the Goldbeater for his work. On the opposite side of Rockburn Branch lie foundation stones for what local folklore refers to as the site of Caleb Dorsey's iron works, which produced nails.

The original road to Belmont, rises west, paralled to the branch. The land on which this cottage sits crosses the branch and extends to the midpoint of the Bowdoin Road, which was named after the mother of Mrs. Bruce, a previous owner of Belmont.

A small concrete dam once stood just east of the house used by the Baltimore City Water Works. Only some concrete foundations remain of this today.

The property adjoining the property owners on this road is owned by the State Parks Department, which is in the process of purchasing more land along the banks of the Patapsco and its branches.

HO - 450
Relay Quad
District I

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
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	X INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Circa 1840 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Goldbeater's Cottage is historically significant to Howard County and the State of Maryland as the home of a Goldbeater, Mr. Batturs, who hammered out gold leaf from large gold bricks in a little wooden shed north of his cottage, and architecturally, as an example of a modest single-family dwelling unit of the nineteenth century, whose integrity and examplification of the construction methods of that period is outstanding. Such construction is characterized by the use of available, nearby materials. Much of the original building remains intact, allowing architectural historians a chance for study.

Entrance doors, of batten wood construction are beaded, as well as the wainscotting (covered by more recent paneling) which is put together with tongue and groove; while the plate, running around the perimeter of the building, holding the four-by-four studs is joined with mortice and tenon construction. Joists holding the first floor, as well as the roof, are of log, those in the attic being of birch. Wooden shingles lie beneath the tin roof.

In addition, large, square cut nails have been found holding the footwide chestnut boards used for siding. Rocks from the branch, as well as nearby fieldstone was used for the building's foundation. The interior plan of the building is straight forward, featuring two rooms on each floor and a central, enclosed, corner staircase.

Historically, the building was used as the home for the Goldbeater, Mr. Batturs, who lent a charm and lively interest to the Rockburn Hill area in the early twentieth century when he plied his unusual craft of beating out gold leaf. Mrs. Elizabeth Anders, who today lives on Rockburn Hill, remembers visiting him with her Grandfather, Mr. Humphries, who was a great friend of Mr. Batturs.

According to Mrs. Anders, he was a very fine gentleman, very French and very polite. Her grandfather was very fond of Mr. Batturs, and would take his granddaughter down the hill and across Rockburn Hill Road to visit his neighbor and watch him work. There, in a little 15' X 20' shed, just north of the cottage, he made sheets of gold out of solid blocks, beating them so thin they had to be blown to pick them up and lay them between two sheets of paper. This job was done by Mrs.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Batturs, who with her husband, raised four children, three from a previous marriage. Some time in the early twentieth century, Mr. Batturs made his home here, later moving further up the hill, first living in a house, which stood on the site of the present residence of Mr. Ernest Seitz, and then moving to what is now the residence of Mr. Tom Ward. Mr. Paul Guercio, the present owner of the property, was born and raised here, remembering the branch never overflowing enough to reach their house. Mr. Guercio's father, who worked for the B & O Railroad, played the trumpet for the B & O Band. In addition, he also worked at Bartlett and Haywood as a pipe fitter. The Guercio family rented this small cottage for only ten dollars a month.

The small community in Rockburn Hill is close knit. Many of the sons and daughters and grandchildren of previous residents still make their homes here, remembering The Fair of the Iron Horse at Hale Thorpe in Baltimore County, on the other side of the Patapsco, and the easy ride to Baltimore City from the B & O Railroad Station at Relay. Happy days were spent here by Mr. Paul Guercio, Mrs. Elizabeth Anders, Miss Anita Berret and Mrs. Cordelia Hansen, exploring the area alone or with those around them.

The State of Maryland has already realized the high scenic value of this area along the west side of the Patapsco River and has been in the process of acquiring land in this area. It already owns land up to the line of the front porch of Mr. Guercio's neighbor to the east. Immediately east, this small road leads into River Road, which goes along the west side of the Patapsco River in the Patapsco State Park.

West of Rockburn Hill lies historic Belmont, now owned by the Smithsonian Institute as a conference center, but should this activity ever end, the State has included it within its acquisition area. This little community of Rockburn Hill, then, is already surrounded by State Park land and thus sheltered and in a sense protected by it.

Significant historically and architecturally to the Rockburn Hill area of Howard County and the State of Maryland, the Goldbeater's Cottage should be included in any future landmark legislation, which the citizens of Howard County might initiate in regard to the Belmont-Lawyers Hill Area, should its owners so desire.

HO-450
Relay Quad
Dist 1

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Howard County
Interviews with Mrs. Cordelia Hansen, Mrs. Elizabeth Anders and Mr. Paul Guercio, November 2, 1979 at Rockburn Hill.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 32, p. 94

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 463 Folio 740

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.

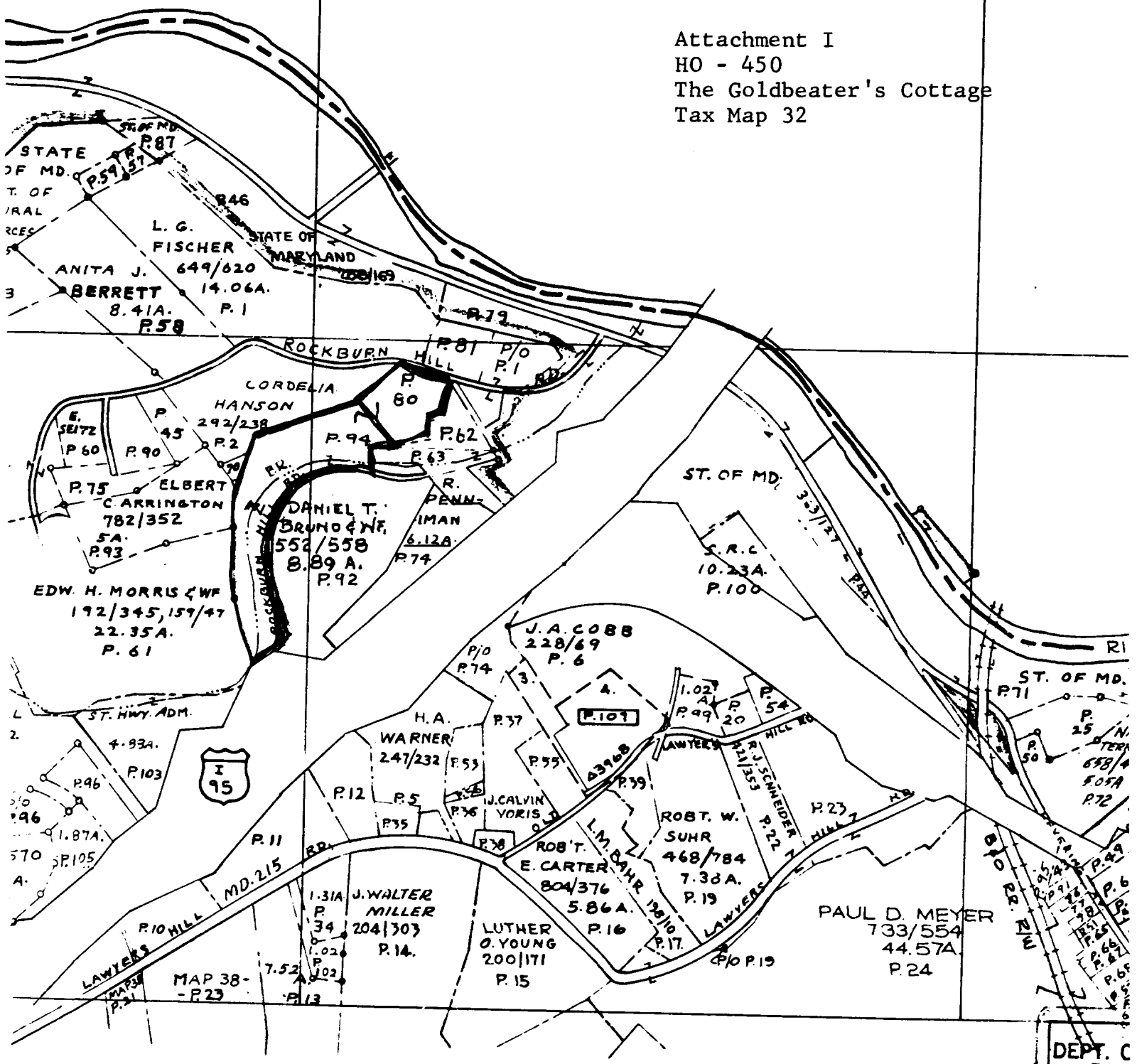
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

PS-1108

BALTIMORE COUNTY

MAP 108

Attachment I
HO - 450
The Goldbeater's Cottage
Tax Map 32



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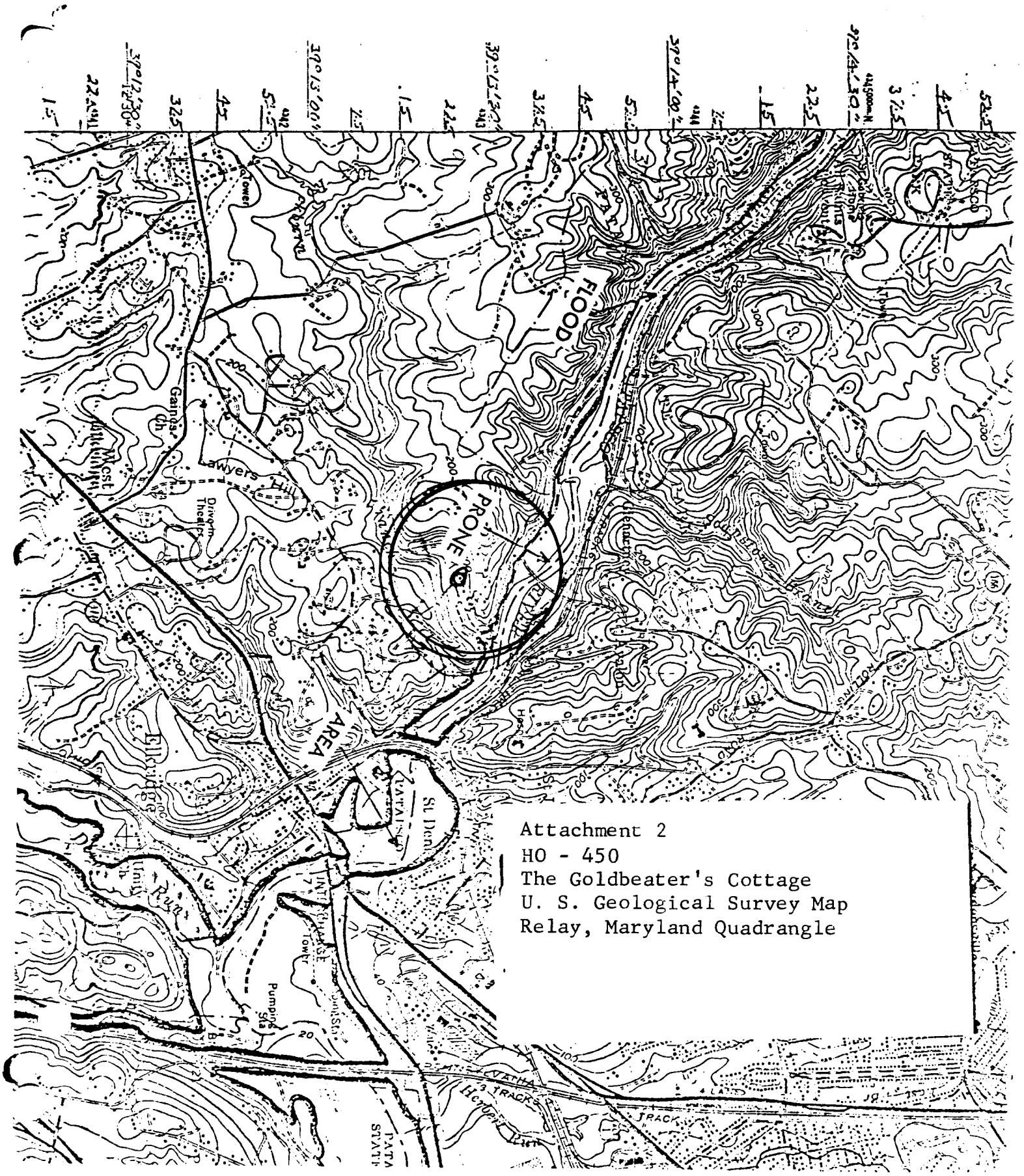

Attachment 2
HO - 450
The Goldbeater's Cottage
U. S. Geological Survey Map
Relay, Maryland Quadrangle

Ho-450
GOLDBEATERS' COTTAGE
SOUTHEAST
CHEORA B. THOMPSON AICP
NOV '79