HO-454
The Knoll
Elkridge
Private 1890

The Knoll faces east at the end of Olney/Norris Lane, off the east side of Landing Road.

It is a two bay wide, two bay deep, two and a half story high, gambrel roof (running north-south) frame, with shingled second and attic floor, shingle style house, constructed on a stone foundation, with a wide central brick chimney and another diagonally placed, wide brick chimney on the building's west wall. The building also features two, gabled roof, east dormer windows and two shed roof, west dormer windows. A two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, intersecting gambrel roof kitchen addition is placed off the north bay of the building's west wall, which is also constructed of frame, with shingled upper floors, constructed on a stone foundation. A shingled, gable roof, second floor, enclosed porch addition rests upon the one story high, open porch along the south elevation of the kitchen wing.

The building is essentially a square with first floor voids along the building's east elevation and in the southwest corner of the building. All fenestration is rectangular and double-hung, holding six-over-six lights in various dimensions. Windows located in the upper floors are decorated with three rows of shark's teeth shingles.

The Knoll was constructed by Elizabeth Cromwell Norris in the latest Shingle Style of that day, as an income producing rental property.

HO-454
Savage Quad.
Dist. 1
MAGI # 1404545604

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: The Knoll

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 6802 Olney/Norris Lane

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: Charles and Joan Hoffman

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER: 6802 Olney/Norris Lane

CITY, TOWN: Elkridge, ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland 21227

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Tax Map 31, p. 140 Hall of Records

Liber #: 531
Folio #: 619

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

HO-454
Savage Quad
Dist. 1

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Knoll faces east at the end of Olney/Norris Lane, off the east side of Landing Road.

It is a two bay wide, two bay deep, two and a half story high, gambrel roof (running north-south) frame, with shingled second and attic floor, shingle style house, constructed on a stone foundation, with a wide central brick chimney and another diagonally placed, wide brick chimney on the building's west wall. The building also features two gabled roof east dormer windows and two shed roof, west dormer windows. A two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, intersecting gambrel roof kitchen addition is placed off the north bay of the building's west wall, which is also constructed of frame, with shingled upper floors, constructed on a stone foundation. A shingled, gabled roof, second floor, enclosed porch addition rests up on the one story high, open porch along the south elevation of the kitchen wing.

Otherwise, the building is essentially a square with first floor voids along the building's east elevation and in the southwest corner of the building. All fenestration is rectangular and double-hung, holding six-over-six lights in various dimensions. Windows located in the upper floors are decorated with three rows of shark's teeth shingles. The void of the east facade is created for use as a one story high open porch, which is supported by six square posts and covers the rectangular, one light, first floor, paneled main entrance door, located in the north bay, which is surmounted by a narrow, projecting lintel. This north bay is recessed slightly and holds a rectangular, double-hung, first floor window, holding six-over-six lights south of the entrance.

A similar, but wider, window is located in the south bay of this wall. Above rest the two gabled roof dormer windows, previously mentioned.

The South Elevation of Main Section

The south elevation holds two similar first floor windows, underlined by three light basement windows inset into the stone foundation. Above rest two second floor windows between which is placed a shingled diamond pattern and above that a single, central attic window, similar to the others but smaller in scale.

The North Elevation of Main Section

The north elevation of the main section holds a wide first floor east bay window, similar to those described and a narrower west bay window. A four light, rectangular window is located at the landing

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

of the staircase, just west of centre, with another located above it. Two second floor windows and a central attic window are also located in this wall. Three wide, wooden steps, flanked by wooden bannisters, lead to the east elevations', first floor open porch.

West Elevation of Main Section

This wall holds the first floor, dining room's, four light, rectangular, entrance door in its south bay. Above, a second floor, gabled roof (running east-west) shingled, enclosed porch, featuring eight light, casement windows extends westward, lying flush with the west wall of the kitchen wing and creating a roof for the one story high, open porch for the kitchen, which lies off the north bay of the main section's west wall.

Two shed roofed, attic dormer windows rest in the north and south bays of the west wall. They hold double six-light, square casement windows, separated and flanked by pilasters.

West Elevation of Kitchen Wing

The west elevation of the kitchen holds a first and second floor window, similar to those described, with a cellar door beneath.

South Elevation of Kitchen Wing

This south elevation holds a four light, rectangular kitchen door in the west bay and a window, similar to those described, in the east bay. A shed roofed casement window, similar to those located in the main section's west elevation is located above.

A tall, diagonally placed, wide brick chimney is located on the northwest corner of the main section of the house, completing the building profile A two story high, (running north-south) frame gambrel roof carriage house is located just north of the kitchen, connected by a one story high hyphen, with rectangular, cross paneled west entrance door. A frame barn lies northeast of the house.

The interior features fine hardwood floors and a noteworthy staircase. Mantlepieces in the hall and living room feature flanking columns holding scrolled brackets which support their mantle shelves.

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	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1890 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Knoll is significant historically and architecturally to the State of Maryland and Howard County, Maryland.

Architecturally, it is an exceptionally fine example of the Shingle Style, reminiscent of the Joseph House in Middletown, Rhode Island, Clarence S. Luce, architect. Such elements as the Gambrel roof, varied roof dormer windows and first floor voids, utilized as open porches, are found in each of the two houses. The second floor and attic of The Knoll are covered with shingles, indicative of this style. The varied roof lines in the shed and gable roofed dormers are also a feature of the Shingle Style as well as the Queen Anne Style, which it suceeded as the most "up-to-date" mode for houses around 1880. Whiffen, in his book American Architecture Since 1780, describes the Shingle Style as follows:

> as an architecture in which the frame is totally concealed and walls and roof are perceived as a thin skin shaped by the enclosed space, it represented the ultimate reaction against the structuralism of the Stick Style, that high Victorian architecture of skeleton. . . . a style that brought a new freedom and openness into the planning of the American House.

This new freedom and openness to which Whiffen refers is best reflected in the interior plan and shape of the house. Rather than a central hall and staircase, off which two rooms, a parlor and sitting room are placed, we find a corner hall and staircase, with a living room flowing into a dining room, separated by two wide doors. The long, rectangular shape of the house now becomes more square and compact with the staircase located in a corner, opening up the long hall of the former plan into a more square, compact and useable space. The Knoll's entrance hall thus becomes almost another sitting room or study, as well as an ante room/hall and the flow of space between the living and dining room has been increased by eliminating the large double doors altogether. The kitchen wing of both plans remains, however, with its separate corner staircase leading up to the servants' quarters above.

The dimension and horizontal compactness of the Knolls, as well as its overall simplicity and restraint make this building one of the finest in Howard County exemplifying the Shingle Style.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Historically, the building is important in the local history of the County, standing on land once a part of Caleb Dorsey's Belmont, now used as a Conference Centre for the Smithsonian Institution.

Around the year 1879, Elizabeth Cromwell Norris constructed Olney, located southeast of the Knoll for herself and her children and moved from Baltimore City to Elkridge. Mrs. Norris kept an extensive diary and after living at Olney for some ten years, decided to construct two tenant houses, as an income producing venture. The first of these houses constructed was the Knoll , which was built in the very latest fashion of the day, reflecting the good taste and avant quard quality of the owner of Olney. Though a lady of means, with servants to help with the everyday household chores, Mrs. Norris was also a thrifty stewart of her possessions and through the pages of her diary, a reflection is seen of these everyday concerns which touch all humanity. The construction of the Knoll was a major real estate venture and her concern for its successful completion and subsequent occupancy flows through the pages of her diary. Materials and construction costs are listed and later a dinner planned for a prospective occupant. Solicitude concerning human relations is also mirrored in her diary. Later pages reveal the completion of the Knoll and its occupancy by an extraordinarily fine couple, Mr. and Mrs. Hays, who furnish not only companionship but abiding friendship to Mrs. Norris and her family.

The concerns which each of us face in our daily lives, a desire for right relationships with God and man and successful working relationships in business endeavors are all reflected in Mrs. Norris' diary, meeting happily with their final successful resolution.

The Knoll is no longer a dependency of "Olney", but is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman, who like the building's first residents, have formed deep and meaningful relationships with the family inhabiting "Olney."

Interesting as a page in the local history of Elkridge and Howard County and architecturally an outstanding example of the Shingle Style, the Knoll should be considered for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places, the State Critical Areas Program and any local landmark ordinance which the citizens of Howard County may seek to initiate, should its owners so desire.

HO-454
Savage Quad
Dist. 1

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mrs. Joan Hoffman, November 7, 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.35 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 31

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 531 Folio 619

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

EAST ELEVATION

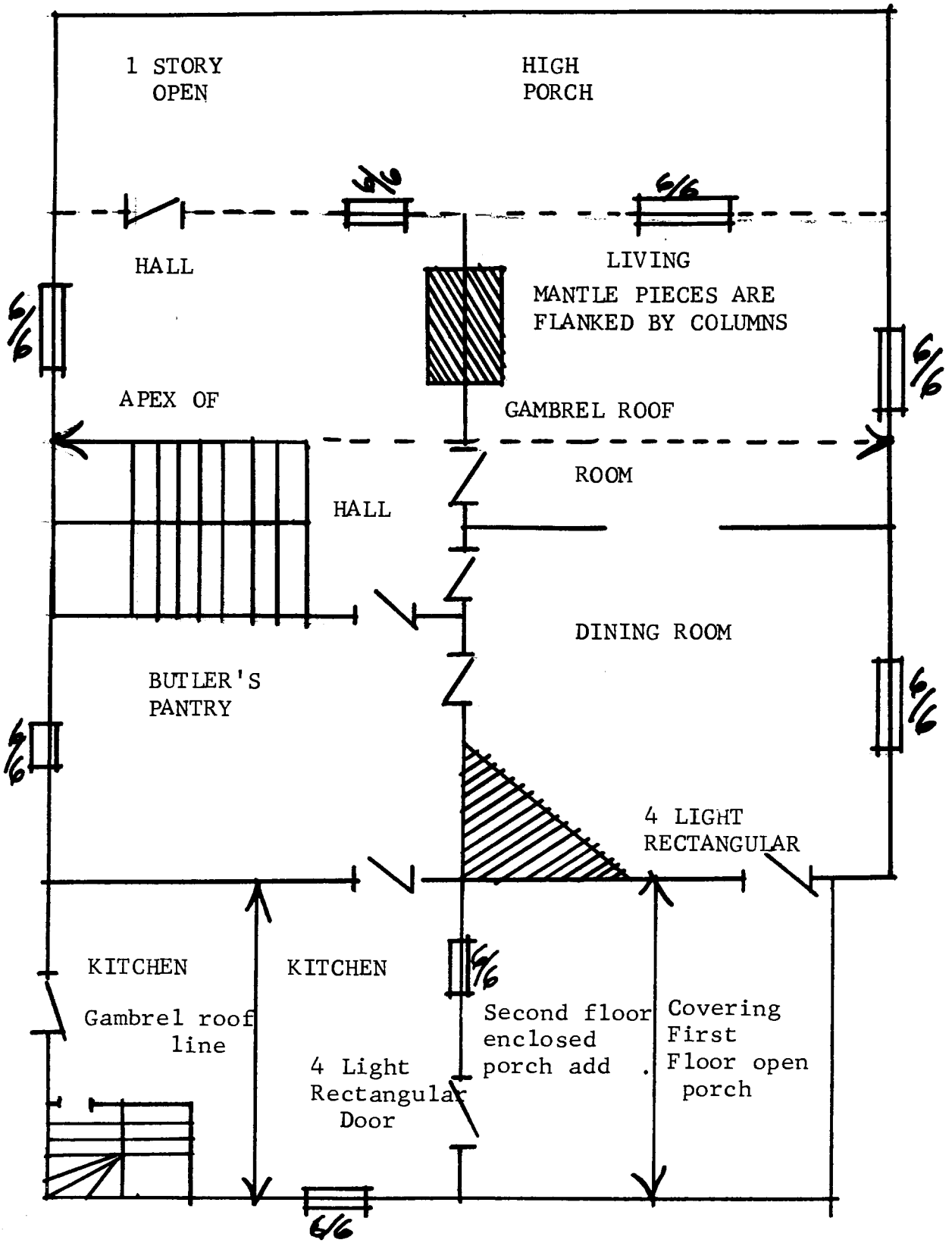
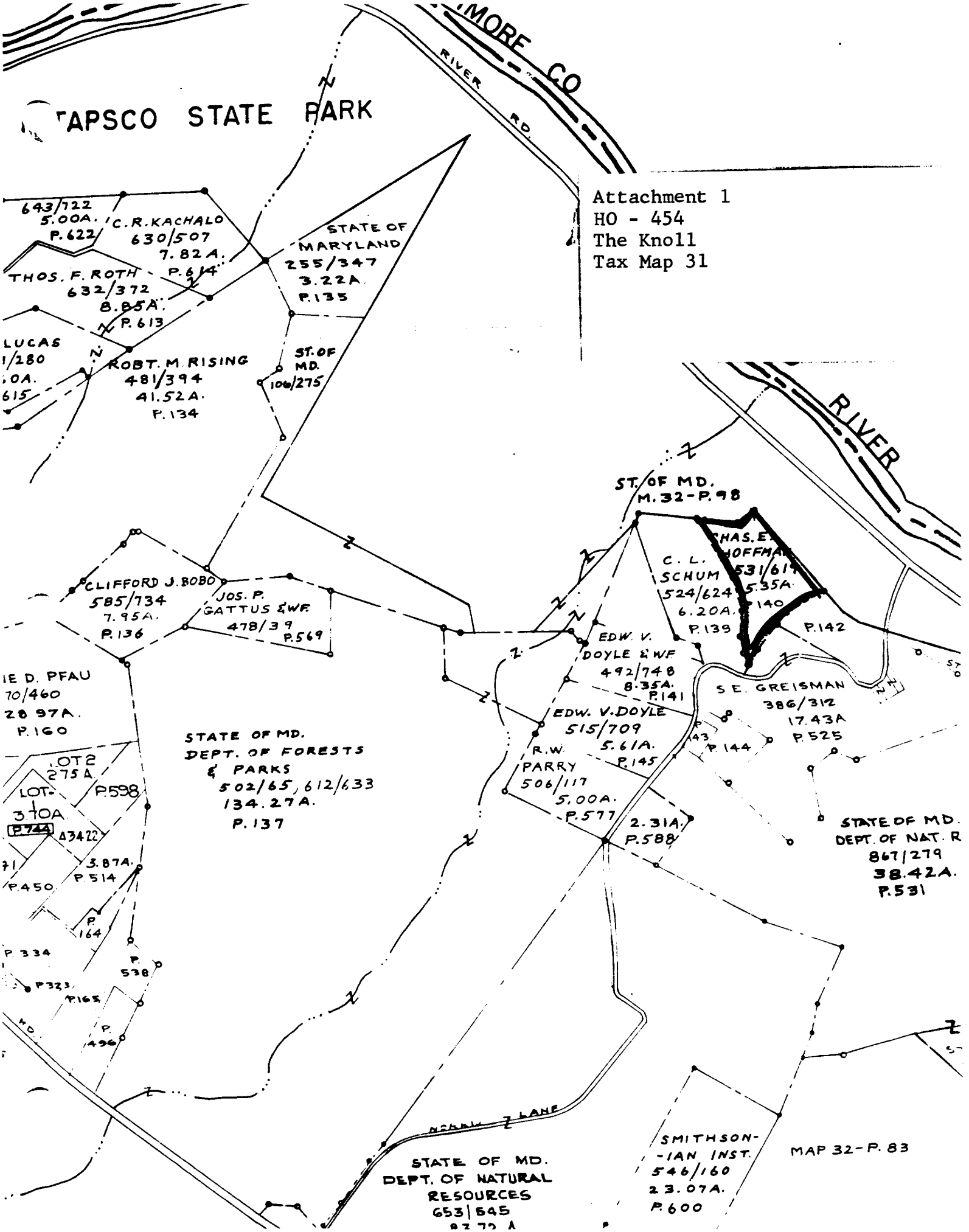
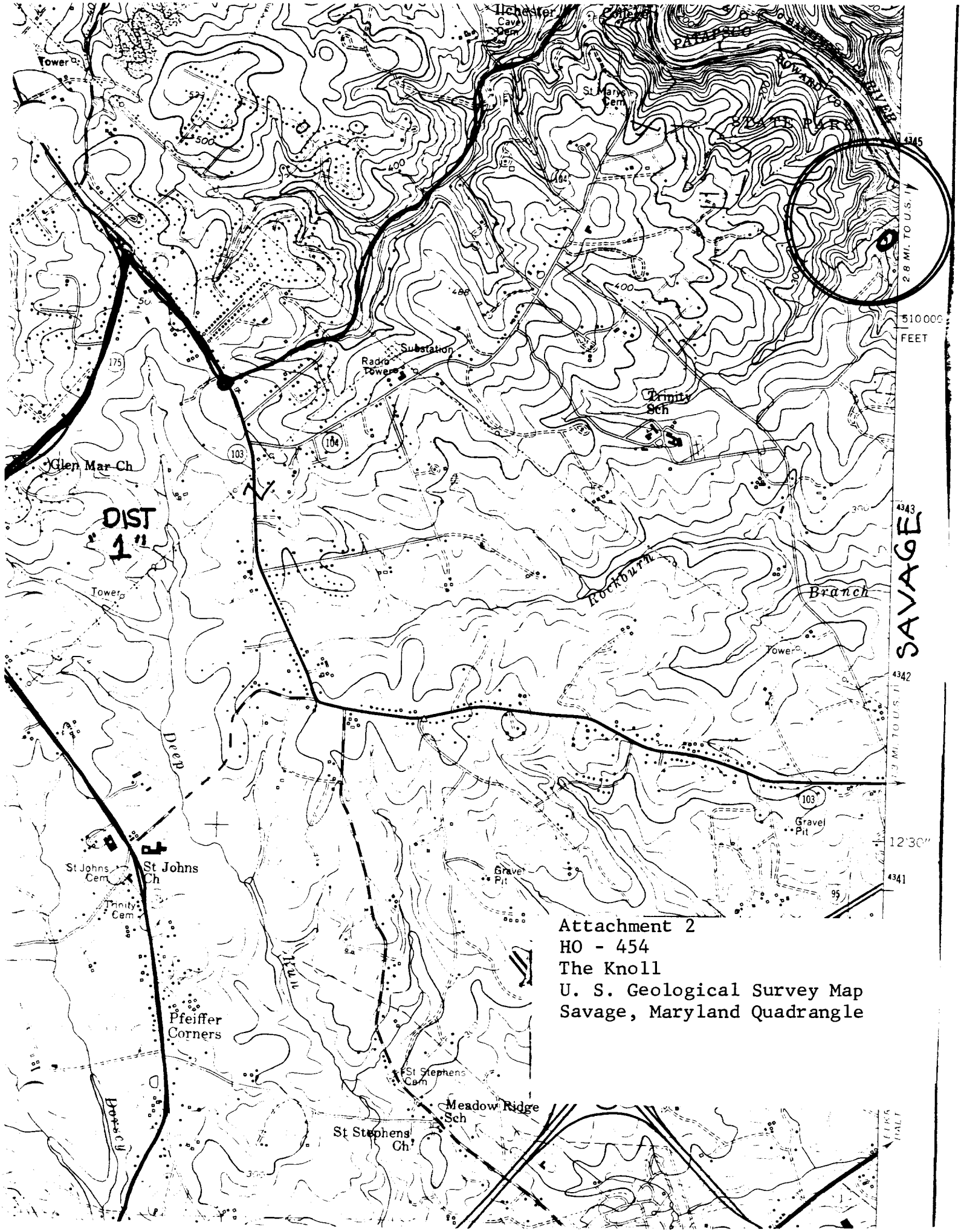


FIGURE 1
HO - 454
THE KNOLL
FIRST FLOOR PLAN (NTS)

Attachment 1
HO - 454
The Knoll
Tax Map 31





Attachment 2
HO - 454
The Knoll
U. S. Geological Survey Map
Savage, Maryland Quadrangle

Ho-454
THE KNOLL

SOUTHWEST
NOV 79

AICP

CLOTHA BARNES THOMPSON
PLANNING CONSULTANT
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY