HO-462
The Rettger House
Clarksville
Private circa 1820

The Rettger House faces east on the north side of Route 32, 2/10 of a mile east of Cricket Creek Horse Farm.

It is a two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) brick (laid in English garden wall brick bond) structure, resting on a stone foundation, with wide brick chimney inset into its north wall, to which has been added a reconstructed three bay wide, two bay deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) south wing, with wide brick central chimney, south of center and twelve light, fan light inset into the attic's south elevation. This latter section, constructed in 1959 replaces one which burned in 1920, but left the kitchen wing untouched.

East of the main house stands a cluster of buildings or remnants of auxiliary buildings. A one story high, four bay wide, one room deep, gabled roof (running east-west) brick (laid in English garden wall brick bond) building is attached to an interesting two bay wide, one room deep, intersecting gable roof (running north-south), stone and brick (laid in English garden wall brick bond) north wing - its south west corner is attached to a two car garage, whose north wall, laid in English garden wall brick bond, appears to be a part of a previous auxiliary building.

The house is believed to have been once the home for the miller, who operated a grist mill on a part of what was once a tract of land called "White Wine and Claret." On February 15, 1843, Major Henry Welling willed the property to his nephew Henry Welling, who later conveyed it to his daughter Arabella Welling Watkins.

HO-462
Dist. 5
MAGI # HO462 3204

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: The James Rettger House

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 6521 Guilford Road
(now at 6520 Burgundy Lane)

CITY, TOWN: Clarksville ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6th

STATE: Maryland 21029

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. and Mrs. James Rettger Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER: 6521 Guilford Road

CITY, TOWN: Clarksville ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland 21029

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hall of Records

Tax Map 35, p.189 Liber #: 525 Folio #: 230

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

The Rettger House faces east on the north side of Route 32, 2/10 of a mile east of Cricket Creek Horse Farm.

It is a two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) brick (laid in English garden wall brick bond) structure, resting on a stone foundation, with wide brick chimney inset into its north wall, to which has been added a three bay wide, two bay deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) south wing, resting on a cinderblock foundation, with wide brick central chimney, south of center, which replaces a previous brick structure, which stood here and was burned circa 1920.

A four bay wide, one room deep, one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) brick (laid in English garden wall brick bond) building lies east of the house, attached to the north brick wall of a two car garage, which may at one time have been used as a north wall for an auxiliary building to this complex of brick buildings and additions, the Rettgers' kitchen wing of which, may well date to as early as 1710. A brick was found in the foundation of this part of the complex, when a Gas and Electric repairman did work on the house. Numerous other stories have also been related to Mr. Rettger by other workers who have done work on the house. The original structure's interior has been renovated to provide for a modern kitchen.

This kitchen wing features stretcher brick, flat arched lintels, projecting header brick sills and an east entrance door, in the south bay, to which has been added a shed roofed, enclosed vestibule.

Fenestration for this section of the house is vertically aligned, rectangular and double-hung, holding six-over-six-lights. The north elevation holds one square attic window, while its west elevation holds two first and second floor windows, similar to those described.

Fenestration for the newer section of the house is similar, but much larger and is proportionally scaled and vertically aligned with the first floor, rectangular, double-hung windows, holding eight-over-twelve lights, and eight-over-eight lights on the second floor. The windows are decorated with stretcher brick, flat, arched lintels and projecting, header brick sills and shutters. This section also features a hipped roof hood, over both first floor central bay window and north bay covered entrance on the east elevation.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The rectangular, paneled, east entrance door is flanked by four side lights, separated and flanked by fluted pilasters and surmounted entirely by a flat lintel.

A central, ten-over-ten light, rectangular, double-hung window is flanked by a four-over-four light, rectangular, double-hung windows in the east wall's central bay window, covered by the tin hipped roof, which floods the study, located off the south wall of the entry hall, with light.

The south wall of the reconstructed brick house features two first and second floor windows, similar to those already described and a central, twelve light, attic fan light, decorated with a header brick, arched lintel and underlined by a row of projecting header bricks.

The west elevation of the reconstructed south wing holds a central, first floor bay window, whose central section holds thirty-five (35) lights, flanked by six-over-nine light, double-hung windows. This reconstructed section holds a one bay wide, one story high, frame north addition on its north wall, which creates additional space for the very handsome living room, which takes up the west half of the first floor. A central, four-four light french door, surmounted by a three light transom, located on the north wall of the living room enters on to a one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) screened in porch, resting on a brick foundation. The northeast corner of the reconstructed south wing of the house, holds an entry hall and staircase, running along the north wall of the entry with a lovely study, featuring the east bay window, placed south of the hall.

The auxiliary buildings east of the house are very interesting, combining old walls with new or reconstruction. The north brick wall of the two car garage holds a central, rectangular, double-hung window, holding eight-over-eight lights and is laid in English garden wall brick bond, with its interior wall faced with cinderblock. It is attached to the southwest corner of the four bay wide, one room deep, one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) brick (laid in English garden wall brick bond) house, which has been mentioned and which features flat, stretcher brick lintels and projecting, header brick sills, all of which decorate varied sized, rectangular, double-hung windows. A central eight-eight light french door serves as an east entrance and is flanked by eight side lights and covered by a one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) screened in porch, with north and south rectangular entrances.

The north elevation of this building, which now serves as an additional residence, holds an exterior brick chimney in its second east bay, a rectangular, double-hung window in its east bay, and on its (second) west bay, a one story high, intersecting gable roof. (running north-south) stone and brick (laid in English garden wall brick bond) north wing, whose north wall appears to be new or

reconstructed and which creates a "T" plan for this building complex. A cement landing runs along the west wall of this stone and brick section, from which rise four concrete steps to the rectangular entrance door located in the south section's west end bay of its north wall. An additional entrance to the stone and brick section is located on its west wall and features brick reinforcement around the door frame.

This section is most interesting for the stone comes up some four to five feet and then its walls continue in English garden wall brick bond (excepting its newly or reconstructed north wall).

This was apparently a one story high stone building, to which was later added, at a rather early time, brick for greater height.

The entire complex is a total blending of old and new. A stone foundation is seen beneath the Rettger's kitchen or original brickhouse; while beneath the 1959 reconstructed south brick wing of the house, apparently rests a cinder block foundation, which may be only a facing for additional strength, an example of which is found in the cinderblock, which faces the interior of the garage's old north brick wall. This earlier brick south wing was burned in 1920 and not rebuilt until 1959.

Reported to date from the eighteenth century, this complex of the remnants of older buildings, which have been adapted for modern use is enhanced by the fine circular drive, stone retaining walls, landscaping and trees which surround it.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

Ho-462
Dist. 5

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
X1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	X__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		Local history

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1820* BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rettger House is significant architecturally and historically to Howard County and the State of Maryland for its unusual assemblage of the remains of some early nineteenth century brick buildings, which were originally a part of a tract of land called "White Wine and Claret," located north of the homestead of Major Henry Welling. A grist and sawmill was located on the northwest side of the Rettger House, north of Cricket Creek. The miller for this grist mill is said to have lived in the nineteenth century, kitchen wing of the present residence of Mr. and Mrs. James Rettger. Auxiliary stone and brick buildings and remnant walls incorporated into present buildings, lie east of the present house and were part of this general complex. Almost all of the brick walls of these buildings feature English garden wall brick bond, sometimes, as in the case of the north wall of the garage, faced with cinder block for added strength and support.

Historically a part of White Wine and Claret, by 1843 this property was a part of the property devised, by the last will and testament of Major Henry Welling, to his nephew Henry Welling in fee simple, from and after the death of Sarah Welling, wife of Major Henry Welling (Howard County Wills 1-41). On November 23, 1853, Henry Welling, the nephew of Major Welling, by his last will and testament, devised the property to his daughter Arabella C. Watkins. The property then consisted of 180 acres. Arabella married Thomas G. Watkins, the son of W. W. Watkins, first clerk of the Court of Howard County. The wording of her father's will is of note, for it indicates the trust of the father for his daughter's good judgment in the following stipulation: "for the sole and separate use of the said Arabella Welling Watkins for, and during her natural life, free of any disposal or control of her said husband and without being subject to his debts."

This stipulation, however, was somewhat mitigated, for on May 4, 1870 we find Arabella in conjunction with her husband Thomas Watkins, giving full permission to their trustee W.W. Watkins to sell some

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

property, of which some thirty-six (36) acres was sold to George C. Zeigler on May 12, 1873 (30-229) (32-417).

The 1860 Martennet Map notes two buildings at this location under the heading of saw and grist mill. Folklore reputes that a man by the name of Mr. Miller lived in the house and was the miller for the grist mill. By 1873 Mr. George C. Zeigler had acquired the buildings and thirty-six acres. He is noted in this location on the 1878 Hopkins Atlas with 42 acres of land.

By August 24, 1949 a Frank Hanafee owned the property and conveyed it to Jacob W. Parlette (212-279). Some years later, in June 1961, Lenore Parneille and Bladen Jackson Parneille owned the house and conveyed it to John and Ione Novak and Gilbert and Kathryn Rannells.

By August 25, 1969, the house was put up for public auction, with Charles E. Hogg conveying the property to Esther Rettger, the present owner.

Historically and architecturally significant to Howard County, the James Rettger House should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the State Critical Areas Program, and any local landmark ordinance the citizens of Howard County may seek to initiate, should its owners so desire.

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* Folklore reports these buildings to date from the eighteenth century. Bricks marked 1770 have been found.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. James Rettger
at their home, June 13, 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 21.86 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 35

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 525 Folio 230

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

HO 140[redacted]04 462 32

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

HO-462

1. NAME

COMMON: James Reitger house

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Lane enters north of Md 32 about 100' east of the bridge over Patuxent River.

CITY OR TOWN: Simpsonville

STATE: Md

COUNTY: Howard

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☑ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☑ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☑ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☑ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☑ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: James Reitger

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Assessor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER: Howard County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City

STATE: Md.

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HO-462

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☑ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☑ Altered ☐ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☑ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

(A)

This brick house in two parts faces north. Roofs are A-frame and have chimneys in the ~~[illegible]~~ outer gable end wall. Two stories high the house is simple in detail.

The larger-scale section is at the east end, 3 bays by 2, with a side-hall plan. The doorway sheltered by a one-story porch.

The smaller section, 2 bays by 1, has an enclosed entry-way.

Windows throughout are 6 over 6.

(B) A tiny brick barn or outhouse near the house has been rebuilt into a guest-house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HO-462

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century
- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century
- ☐ 18th Century
- ☑ 19th Century
- ☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - ☐ Prehistoric
  - ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A pleasant country house for a Washington-based couple adapted from a simple farmhouse

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HO-462

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY									OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE						LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds				Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"				°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"									
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"									
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"									

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

ORGANIZATION | DATE

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: | STATE

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

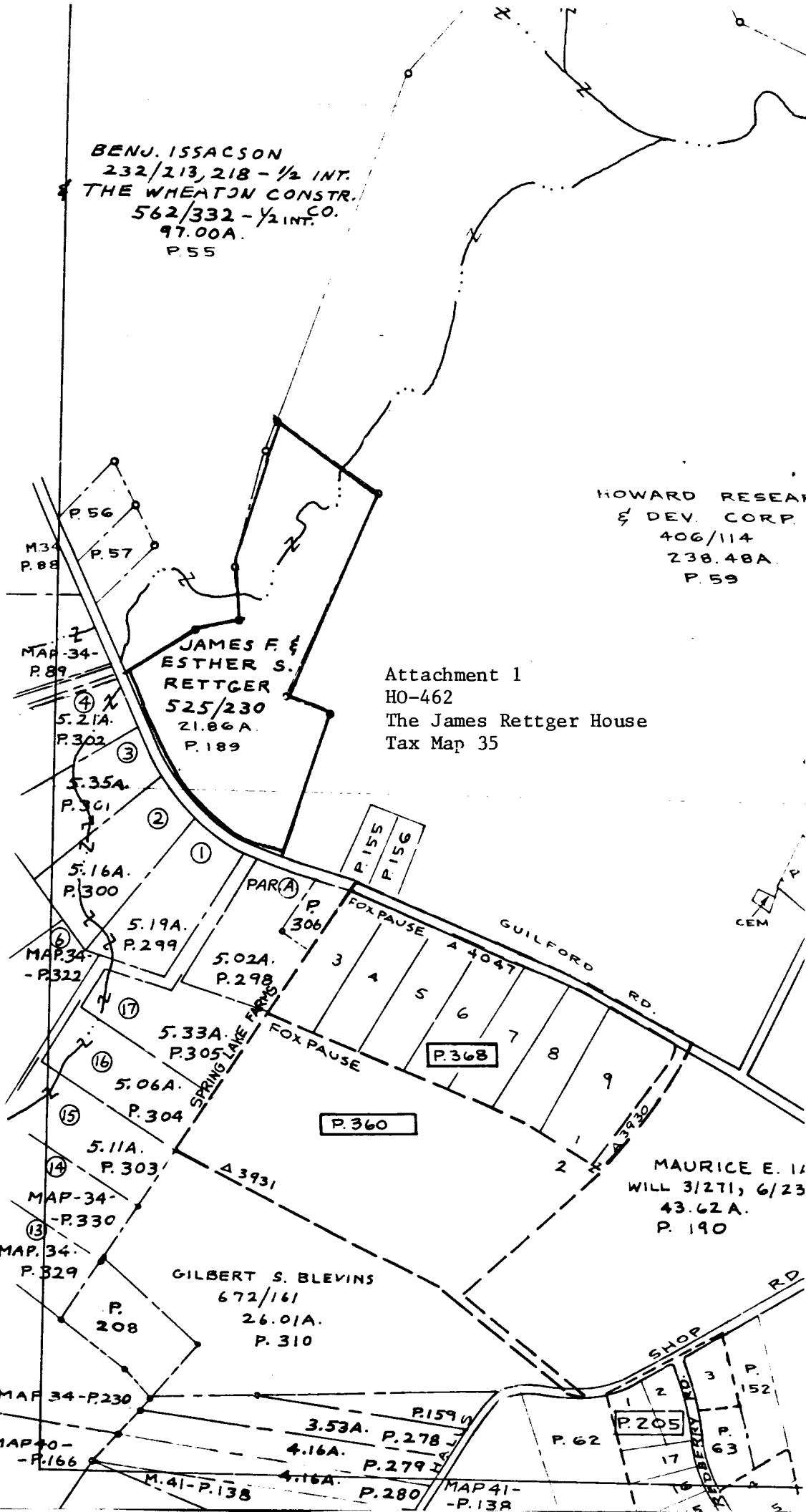
Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

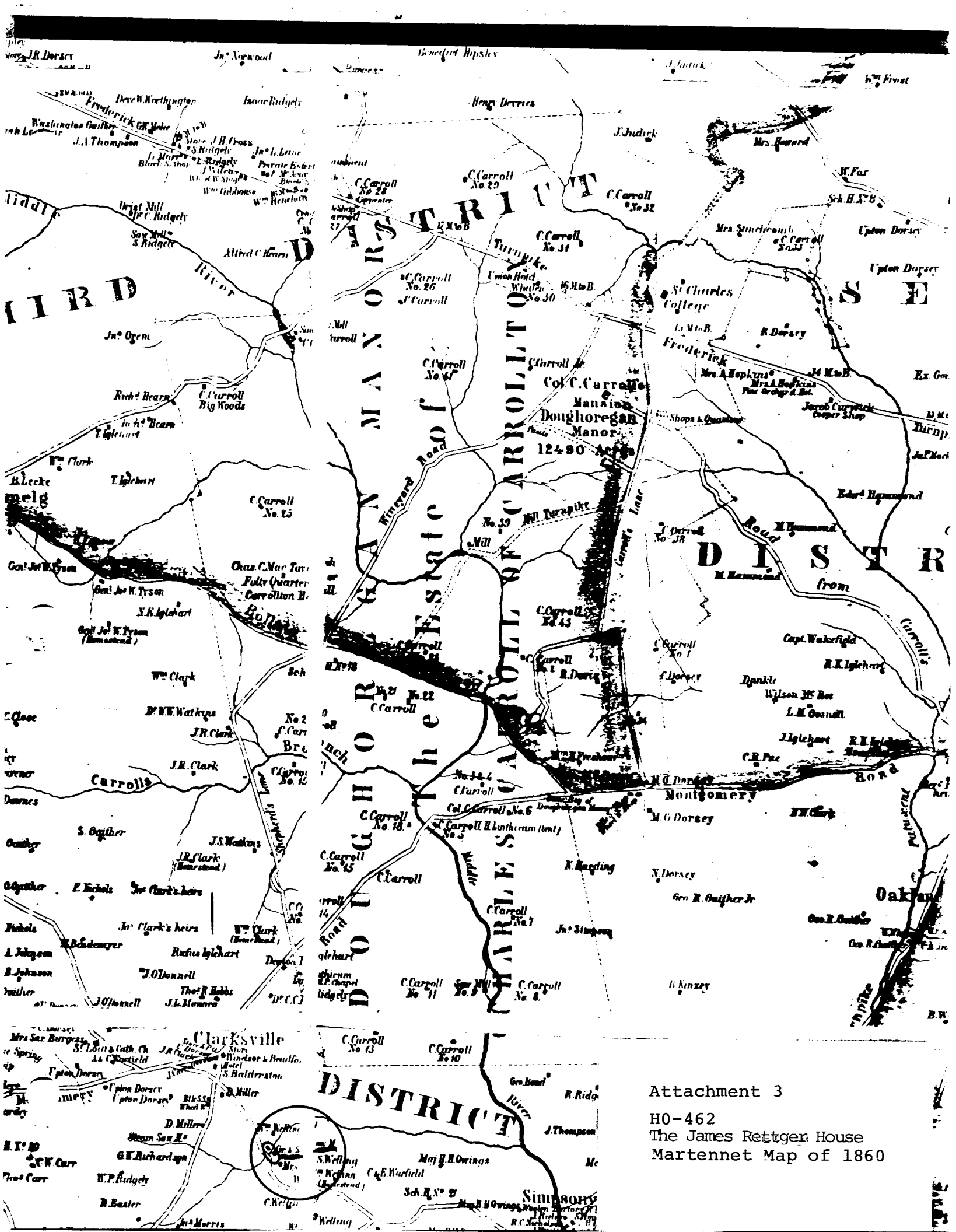
Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

34

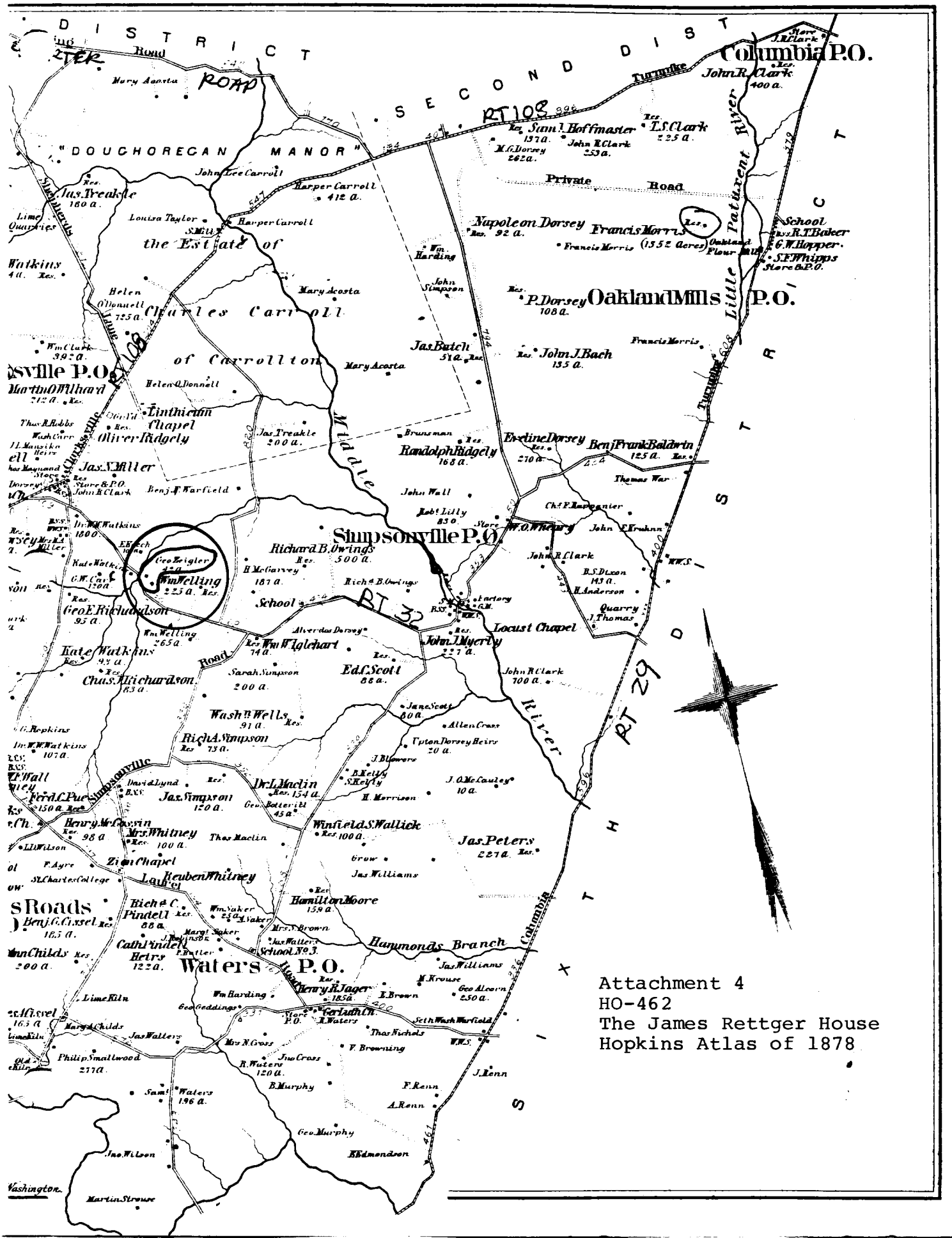


Attachment 1
HO-462
The James Rettger House
Tax Map 35

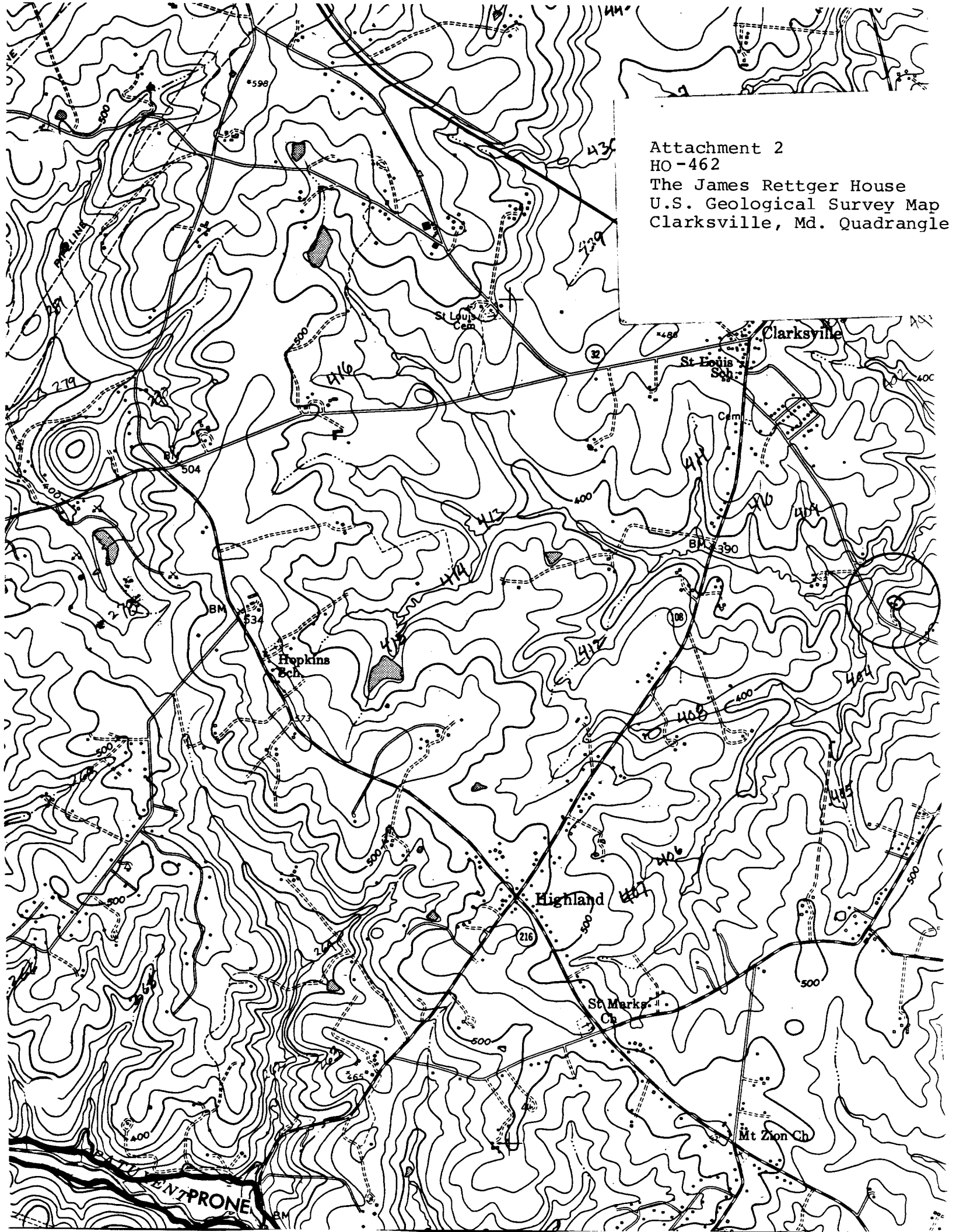


Attachment 3

H0-462
The James Rettger House
Martennet Map of 1860



Attachment 4
HO-462
The James Rettger House
Hopkins Atlas of 1878



Attachment 2
HO-462
The James Rettger House
U.S. Geological Survey Map
Clarksville, Md. Quadrangle

HO ~~2387~~
462

9330

April 72

882

James Rettger guest house

HO ~~238-B~~
462

9330

JSE April 72

James-Rettger house

Ho-462
THE JAMES RETTGER HOUSE
EAST
JUNE 1979
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