Circa 1853

HO-465 WATKINS
The ~~John T. Swann~~ House & Outbuildings
Clarksville, Maryland
Private

The John T. Swann House faces west on the south side of Route 108, west of its intersection with Route 32.

It is a five bay wide, one room deep, two & a half story high, gabled roof (running north-south) log-frame structure, whose north, south and east walls have been brick veneered and whose north wall holds a wide central, exterior brick chimney. Its west facade features a central, octagonally paneled, rectangular entrance door, flanked by four vertical side lights and surmounted by a three light transom. First floor windows are rectangular, double hung and hold twelve-over-twelve lights, which are vertically aligned and proportionally scaled to the second floor windows above.

A one story high, flat roofed, open porch, supported by six square columns, resting on a brick landing, runs along this elevation.

A one & a half story high, gabled roof (running east-west) brick kitchen-dining room wing extends from the building's east wall.

Originally, a part of a large tract of land called "White Wine & Claret," it was owned by Major Henry Welling in 1843, who willed the property to Henry Welling, his nephew. In 1853 Henry Welling, nephew, willed the property to his daughter, Arabella, wife of Thomas G. Watking, who is believed to have built the house at this time. Thomas G. Watkins was the son of the notable Dr. William Watkins.

HO-465
District 5

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MAGI #14046550 4

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
The Arabella Welling Watkins' House/Dr. William W. Watkins House

AND/OR COMMON
The John T. Swann House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
13015 Clarksville Pike (MD 108)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
6th

CITY, TOWN
Highland

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Howard

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
XX DISTRICT	XX PUBLIC	XX OCCUPIED	__ AGRICULTURE	__ MUSEUM
__ BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__ UNOCCUPIED	__ COMMERCIAL	__ PARK
__ STRUCTURE	__ BOTH	__ WORK IN PROGRESS	__ EDUCATIONAL	XX PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	__ ENTERTAINMENT	__ RELIGIOUS
__ OBJECT	__ IN PROCESS	XX YES: RESTRICTED Priv. res.	__ GOVERNMENT	__ SCIENTIFIC
	__ BEING CONSIDERED	__ YES: UNRESTRICTED	__ INDUSTRIAL	__ TRANSPORTATION
		X NO Office	__ MILITARY	__ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Swann

Telephone #: 988-9672

STREET & NUMBER
13015 Clarksville Pike

CITY, TOWN
Highland, MD

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Tax Map 34, p. 91
Hall of Records

Liber #: 215
Folio #: 224

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

__ 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
XXEXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	XXORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	XXALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John T. Swann House is located on part of the original tract of land called "White Wine & Claret", and stands on a high ridge line facing west on the south side of Route 108.

It is a five bay wide, one room deep, two and a half story high, gabled roof (running north-south) log house whose north, south, and east walls have been brick veneered in running bond brick. A wide brick exterior chimney is centered on the north wall.

Fenestration is vertically aligned and proportionally scaled and varies.

The first floor, rectangular double hung windows which flank the central rectangular entrance and the first floor window in the east bay of the north wall hold 12 -over 12 lights. The five second floor windows on the west facade hold nine-over-six lights, while the two second floor windows on the north wall hold six-over-six lights. The attic casement windows on the north wall hold two-two lights, while the south wall holds a double attic window, each component a four light casement window.

The west facade's central entrance door (open bible and cross-paneled on the interior side and octagonally paneled on the exterior side) is flanked by four vertical side lights and surmounted by a three light transom. An "A" framed central dormer window on this elevation holds a semi-circular two light casement window. A flat roofed one-story high, open porch runs along this entire facade, supported by six square posts resting on a brick patio. A scalloped baseboard decorates the roof line.

A single second floor, rectangular double-hung window with six-over six lights rests on the north side of the east wall. Off this east wall is a one and a half story high, gabled roof (running east-west) brick addition which replaces the old frame kitchen. It features a first floor bay window on its east elevation and a roof which slopes southward, creating a salt box effect. A rectangular entrance is located on the south wall.

The interior plan of the house features a wide central hall and staircase which retains its fine cherry bannister and knewel post as well as its round tapered spindles. All the woodwork is un-mitered on the outer frames and is reputed to be original to this century old house. A square brick fireplace was located at each end of the house to which stoves were attached for heating. These have been removed and a large brick fireplace installed in the center of the buildings north wall, whose fine mantlepiece, executed by College Mill, features fluted pilasters.

The original lathe plaster runs throughout the house, which is of log, featuring 6" x 6" beams, no basement and log floor joists. The attic features rough milled beams.

The kitchen-dining room wing was added in 1949 and replaces an earlier frame kitchen which was in dilapidated condition. The entire building is in excellent condition.

South of the house is an old peg barn, while a small pond lies west of the house and entrance drive way.

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	XX AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
XX 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1853 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John T. Swann House which is located on a part of a tract of land called "White Wine & Claret," is historically and architecturally noteworthy. Historically, it is associated with the Welling and Watkins families of Howard County, early settlers. Architecturally it is outstanding as a fine example of a century old log house built on a grand scale. Historically it is associated with the Welling family of Howard County who settled on a portion of "White Wine & Claret" and whose homestead, the Welling House, HO-164, is located on the east side of Route 32, not far from this present house which was evidently a dower house from Henry Welling to his daughter, Arabella, and her husband, Thomas G. Watkins.

Arabella inherited the property , which consisted of some 180 acres, on 23 November 1853. Her father, Henry Welling, had inherited the land from his uncle, Major Henry Welling on 18 February, 1843. (HC-30-229).

On May 9, 1870, Arabella and her husband, Thomas, deeded the property to his father, Dr. William W. Watkins, (HC. 30-229), first clerk of the court for Howard County, whose name appears on the Hopkins Atlas of 1878. This occurs on several houses, though he is said to have resided at "Richlands", on Sheppards Lane.

On February 21, 1950, the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Swann acquired the property from Cuyler Welling McNeil, who came to the house as a young bride at the turn of the twentieth century. (HC 215-224).

Architecturally, this old log house is a fine example of early Howard County architecture, built on a grand scale with spacious, well lighted rooms and large central halls. Its entrance door is quite unique, open bible and cross paneled on its interior side, and octagonally paneled on its exterior side. The house retains its original wood work and window sashes, and a fine staircase, which goes from the first to the third floors.

Its integrity is totally unimpaired, with only two exceptions: its square brick chimneys, to which Latrobe stoves were attached, have been removed to allow a greater flow of space in the downstairs and upstairs rooms; and 2) a large brick fireplace with well

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

executed wooden mantle featuring fluted pilasters, has been added to the north wall of the living room.

In addition to this fine house, a large old barn, lying south, stands on the property.

Historically and architecturally noteworthy, the John T. Swann House and outbuildings should be considered for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Sites and State Critical Areas Program.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Warfield, J.D., Founders of Ann Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland, Baltimore, 1973

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 70-72 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 34

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

PLEASE SEE : Howard County Land Records, Liber 215, folio 224

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

TELEPHONE
465-5000 x257

STREET & NUMBER
3450 Court House Drive

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

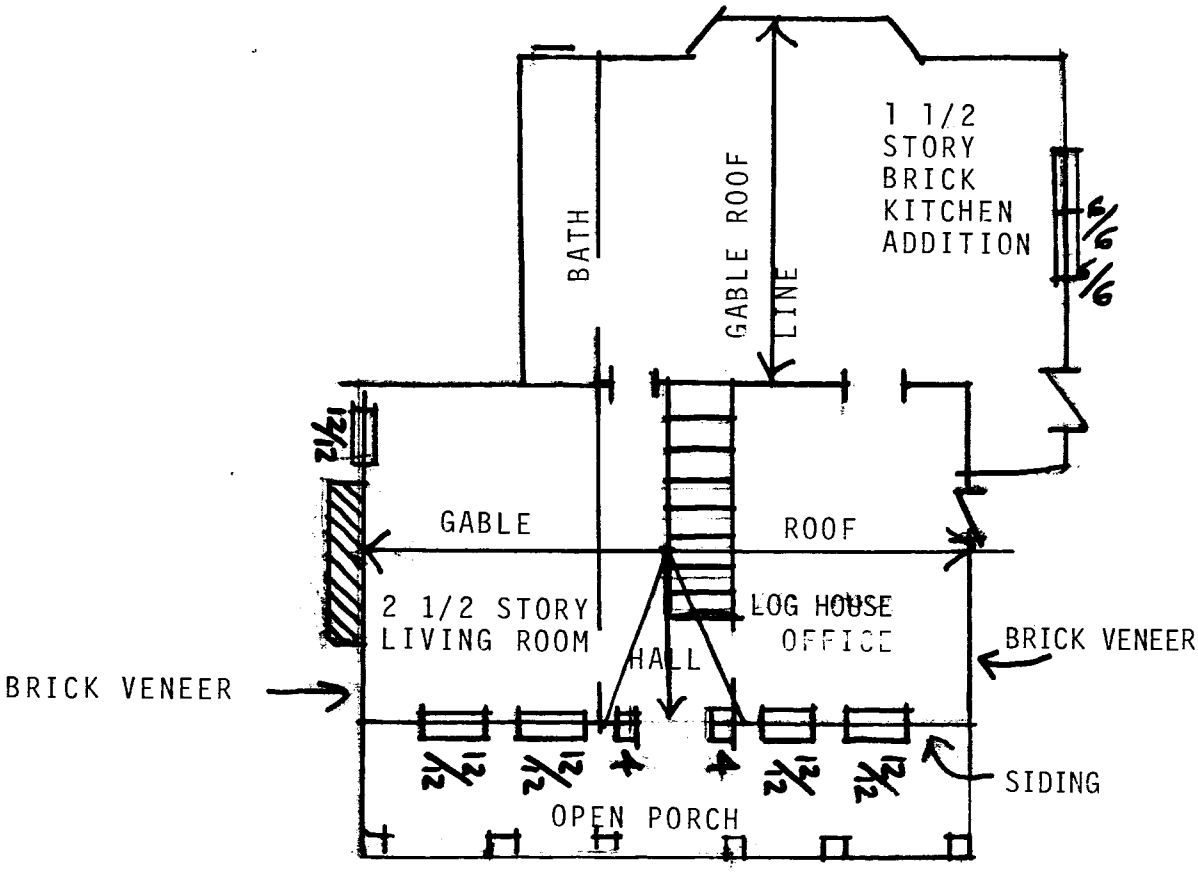
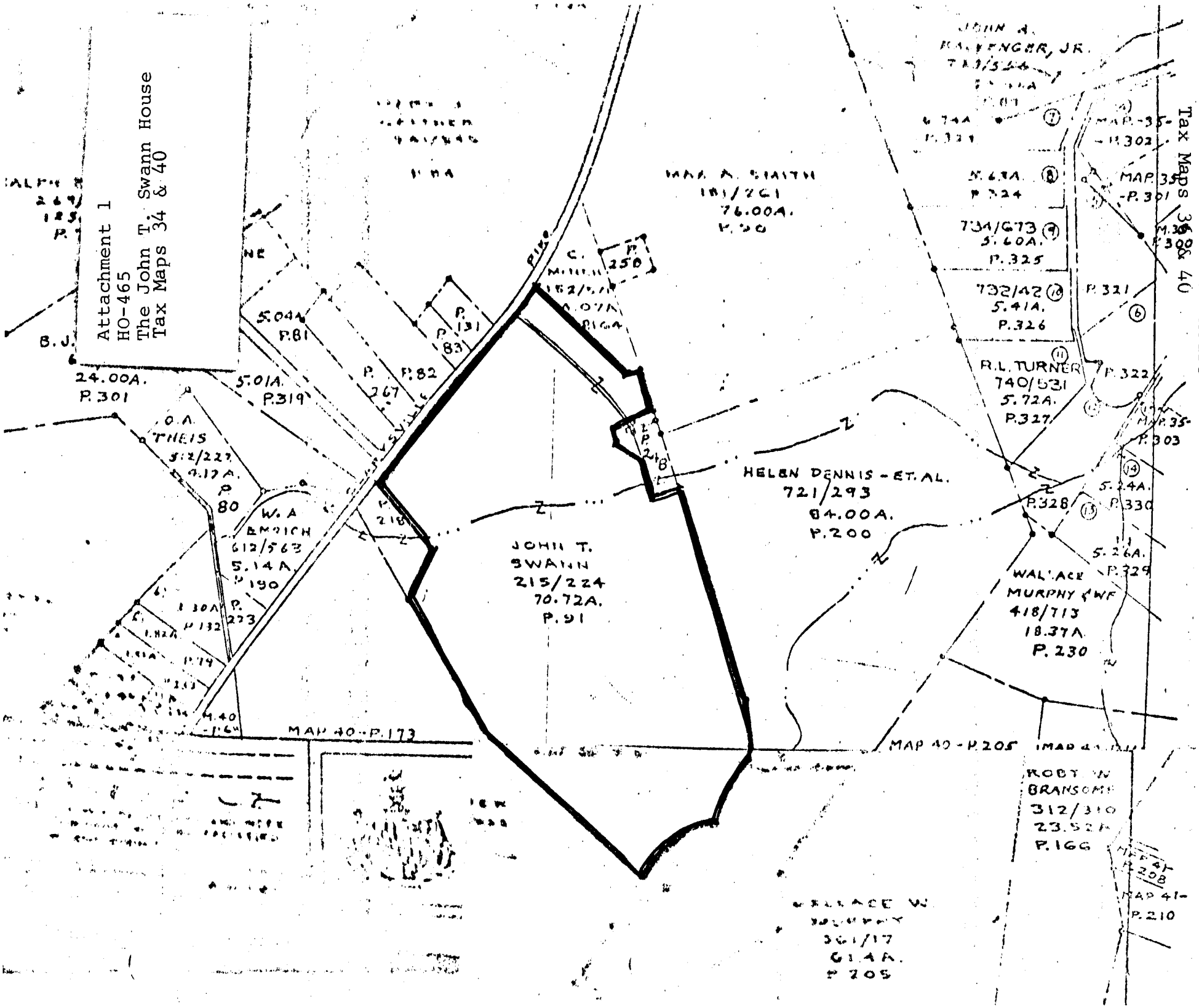


FIGURE # 1
HO-465
The John Swann Residence
First Floor Plan, with Roof Line

Attachment 1
HO-465
The John T. Swann House
Tax Maps 34 & 40



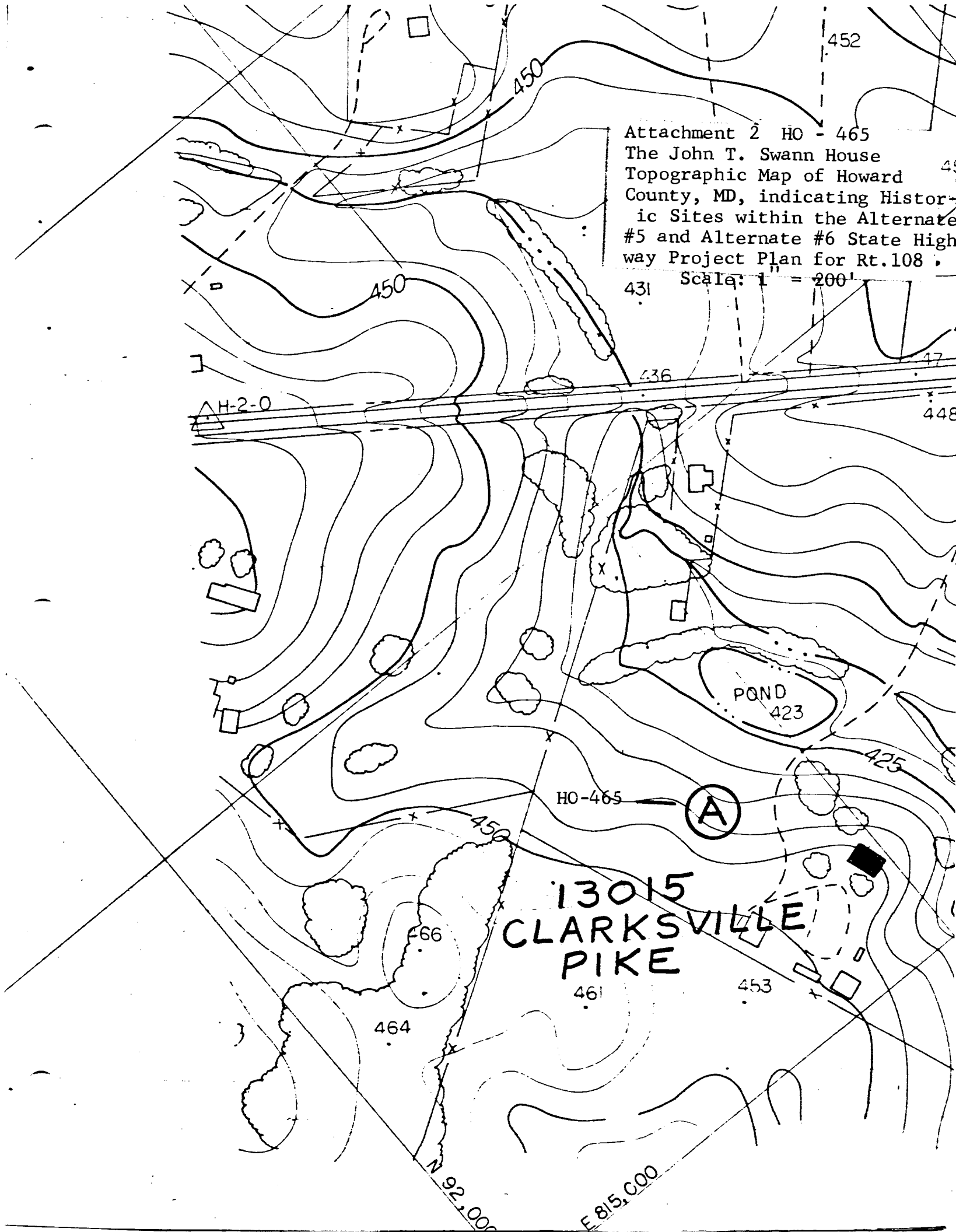
Attachment #1 HO-465
The John T. Swann House
Tax Maps 34 & 40

4

492

Attachment 3
HO-465
The John T. Swann House
Hopkin's Atlas of 1878
District 5

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1878 by G. M. Hopkins, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.



Attachment 2 HO - 465
The John T. Swann House
Topographic Map of Howard County, MD, indicating Historic Sites within the Alternate #5 and Alternate #6 State Highway Project Plan for Rt.108.
Scale: 1" = 200'

Ho-465
The John Swann House
West June '78

C B Thompson, AIP