

HO-509

The Mrs. Mills Double House  
Elkridge  
Private

~~Eighteenth~~ Nineteenth Century

The Mrs. Mills Double House faces east on the west side of Railroad Avenue, diagonally across the street from HO-511, The William Bian's Two Frame Houses. It is a four bay wide, two room deep, two and a half story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame double house, resting on a stone foundation with two very large square, central chimneys on the east and west sides of the apex of the roof, which holds two gabled roof dormer windows on the east and west elevations.

Entrances are located in the end bays with staircases leading to the floor above. A central dividing wall holds the two fireplaces per floor for each side of the house, with the basement holding cooking fireplaces for each half of the building.

Presently in a dilapidated state of disrepair, the building's double-hung, six-over-six light, rectangular windows have been boarded up, as well as its entrances.

Reputed to date to the eighteenth century, the building is noted as the property of Mrs. Mills on the 1860 Martenmet Map of Howard County.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI #1405095404

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The Mrs. Mills Double House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER W.S. Railroad Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Elkridge

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Howard

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY                                     | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS   | PRESENT USE                                      |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED                  | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED     | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE           | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS          | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT              | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT           |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED          | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT              |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                        | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL              |
|  |   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY                |
|  |   |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Vacant |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Charles E. Toomey

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER 5871 Washington Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Elkridge

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Md. 21227**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE, Tax Map 38 p/o p. 611  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

Liber #: 19

Folio #: 155-194 (Equity)

STREET &amp; 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  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION**HO-509  
Dist. 1

| CONDITION                          |  | CHECK ONE                                     | CHECK ONE   |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD      | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS                   | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED              | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR      | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED               |   |   |

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Mrs. Mills Double House faces east on the west side of Railroad Avenue, diagonally across the street from HO-511, The William Bian's Two Frame Houses. It is a four bay wide, two room deep, two and a half story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame double house, resting on a stone foundation, with two very large square, central chimneys on the east and west sides of the apex of the roof, which holds two gabled roof dormer windows on the east and west elevations. Entrances are located in the end bays, with staircases leading to the floor above. A central dividing wall holds the two fireplaces per floor for each side of the house, with the basement holding cooking fireplaces for each half of the building. Presently in a dilapidated state of disrepair, the building's double-hung, six-over-six light windows have been boarded up, as well as its entrances. In addition, it stands very close to the east side of the B & O Railroad Tracks and adjoins the railroad's property. Plans are presently under way to undertake an Historic American Buildings Survey of the structure.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

|   |  |   |   |   |               |  |
|---|--|---|---|---|---------------|--|
| <b>PERIOD</b>                                 |  | <b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</b> |   |   |               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING             | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION                   |               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION                   | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE                    |               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS                      | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE                  |               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION                      | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN        |               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING                    | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER                    |               |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT         | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION             |               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY                       | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |               |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION                      |   |   | Local History |  |

**SPECIFIC DATES**                      circa 1820                      **BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Mrs. Mills Double House is significant to Howard County and the State of Maryland architecturally, as an example of early American domestic, frame architecture, which furnished housing for two families and historically, as the property of a Mrs. Mills in 1860.

Architecturally, the building is one of the most noteworthy in the village of Elk Ridge and unique in its design, which features two gabled roof dormer windows on its east and west elevations, and two, very large, square, brick, central chimneys, which each furnish double fireplaces, inset into the dividing wall between the two houses. These two features, along with its fine proportion and scale, make it a noteworthy building. In addition, it is of interest in the history of housing in the United States, for it furnishes an early example of a frame, duplex structure, with cooking fireplaces in the basement, where the kitchens were located.

Historically, the building is also of interest, being noted on the 1860 Martennet Map, associated with a Mrs. Mills. The 1878 Hopkins' Atlas delineates it as a part of a large parcel of land on the east side of the Railroad owned by Mr. Thomas Pettit. Actually there is some question about the owner of the property at this time. Owned by Joseph D. Pettit, a large landowner in Elkrige, the property was part of his estate, which was divided between his wife, Annie and their two children, Thomas and Annie Milling at his death.

On September 6, 1877, Howard County Circuit Court decreed a partition of the estate with Annie E. Milling holding in severalty and not jointly or in common with Thomas F. Pettit several lots, among them the lot and improvements under consideration, HO-509.

Referring to a case in Equity before the Circuit Court of Howard County on March 2, 1889 between Annie M. Pettit (widow of Joseph D. Pettit) vs. Annie E. Milling et al (daughter of Joseph D. Pettit), we find that Annie E. Milling was unable to keep up the property and had difficulty in paying the taxes on the property. Evidently these lots along the west side of Railroad Avenue, comprising both HO-509 and HO-510 were managed rather unsuccessfully by her or her brother, and the decision of the Court (please see Equity L.J.W. #19, folio 155-194) was made to sell the property at public auction and divide the proceeds. This was accomplished by the trustees, Daniel Murray and Reuben Johnson on 6 May, 1889. This lot is noted on the sale plat of the property (see attachment 5) sold, "together with improvements", to Mr. Joseph H. Wyatt for \$900. On page 160 of the proceedings of the Case in Equity, Annie Milling states that the improvements on lot #3 (see attachment 5 - Sale Plat) "and on said remaining lots" (HO-510) "are all old . . ." It was further stated that the latter are fast

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

"falling into ruin and decay". We then have testimony from these proceedings of 1889 that the buildings, HO-509 and HO-510 were old at this time.

To establish a building date for "old", however, is difficult to say the least. In an interview with Mr. Toomey, present owner of HO-509, the Mrs. Mills Double House, Mr. Toomey stated that it was his belief that the building dates from the eighteenth century. He referred to a title search undertaken by Daniel Murray for his father, Charles Toomey. Conservatively, the building dates from circa 1820. Such a date may be established by some of the following architectural features: its large cooking fireplaces, the scale and proportions of the building, as well as its dormer windows, and double-hung six-over-six light windows.

Historically and architecturally noteworthy to Howard County and the State of Maryland, The Mrs. Mills Double House should be placed, in conjunction with the Railroad Avenue Historic District, on the National Register of Historic Places, the State Critical Areas Program and any local landmark legislation the citizens of these properties may seek to initiate.

Such a designation would help insure the future of this building, which is in a dilapidated state, standing unoccupied and vacant at the present time. In addition, plans are under way to construct, only one house north of this building, parking facilities for commuters utilizing the B & O Railroad line from Baltimore to Washington. These plans need not jeopardize the building. A designation to the National Register of Historic Places for this area would, however, point out the need to make certain that the historical and/or cultural resources of this area would be considered in any project planned for inclusion to this area.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Martennet Map of 1860  
Hopkin's Atlas of 1878  
Interview with Mr. Charles Toomey, January, 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 lot improvements

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 38

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 19 Folio 155-194  
(Equity)

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

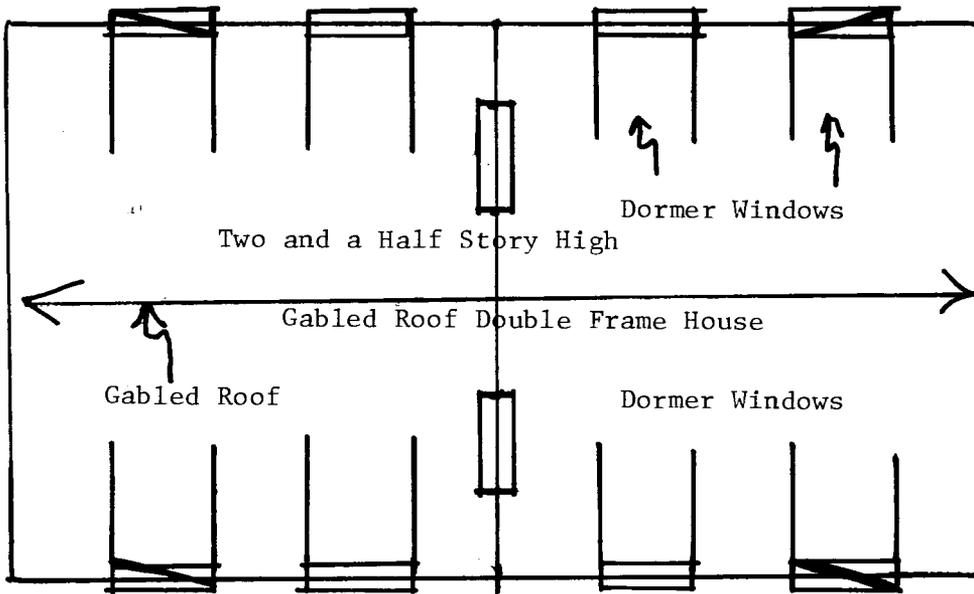
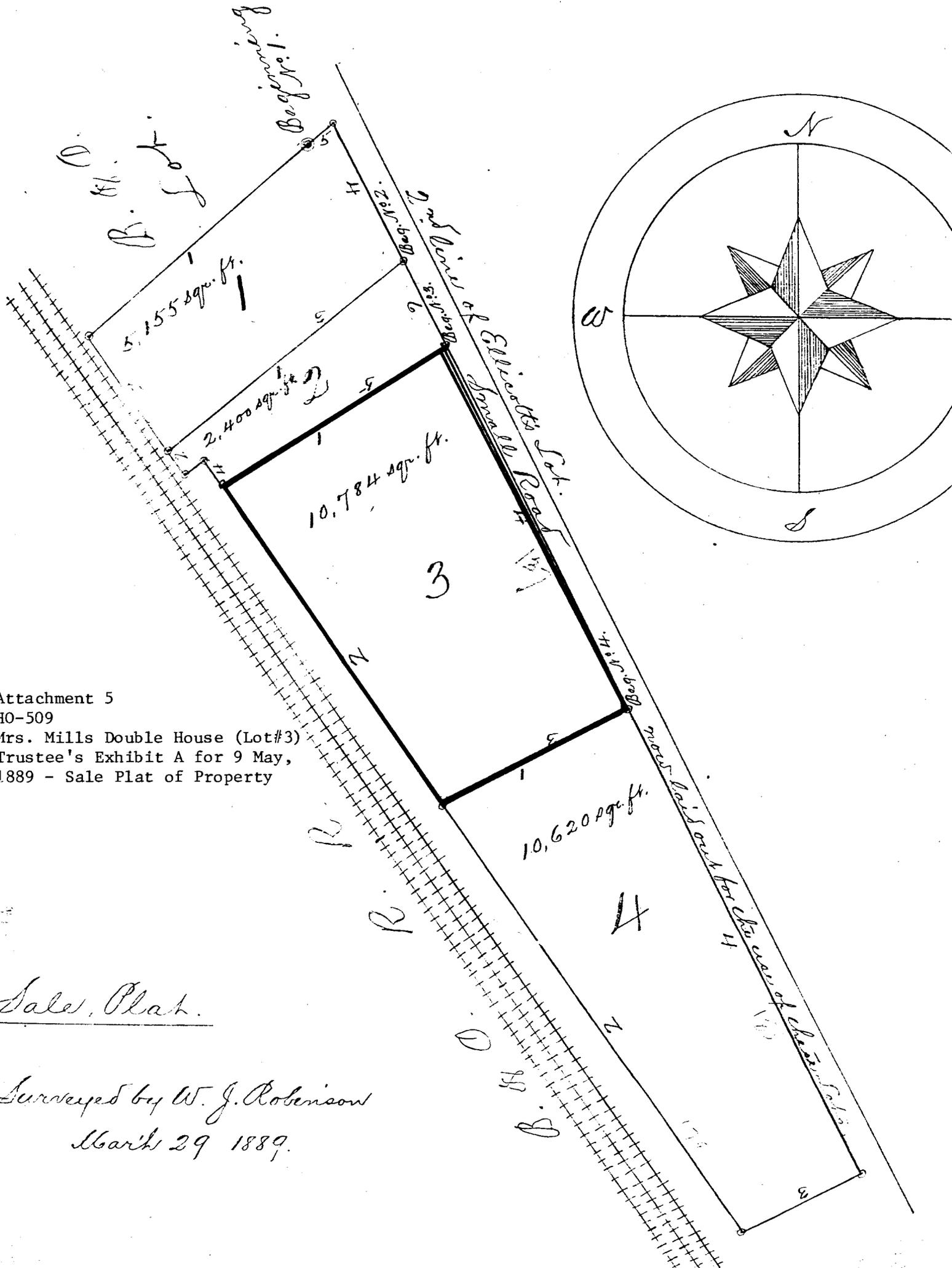


Figure 1  
 HO-509  
 Mrs. Mills Double House  
 Roof Plan



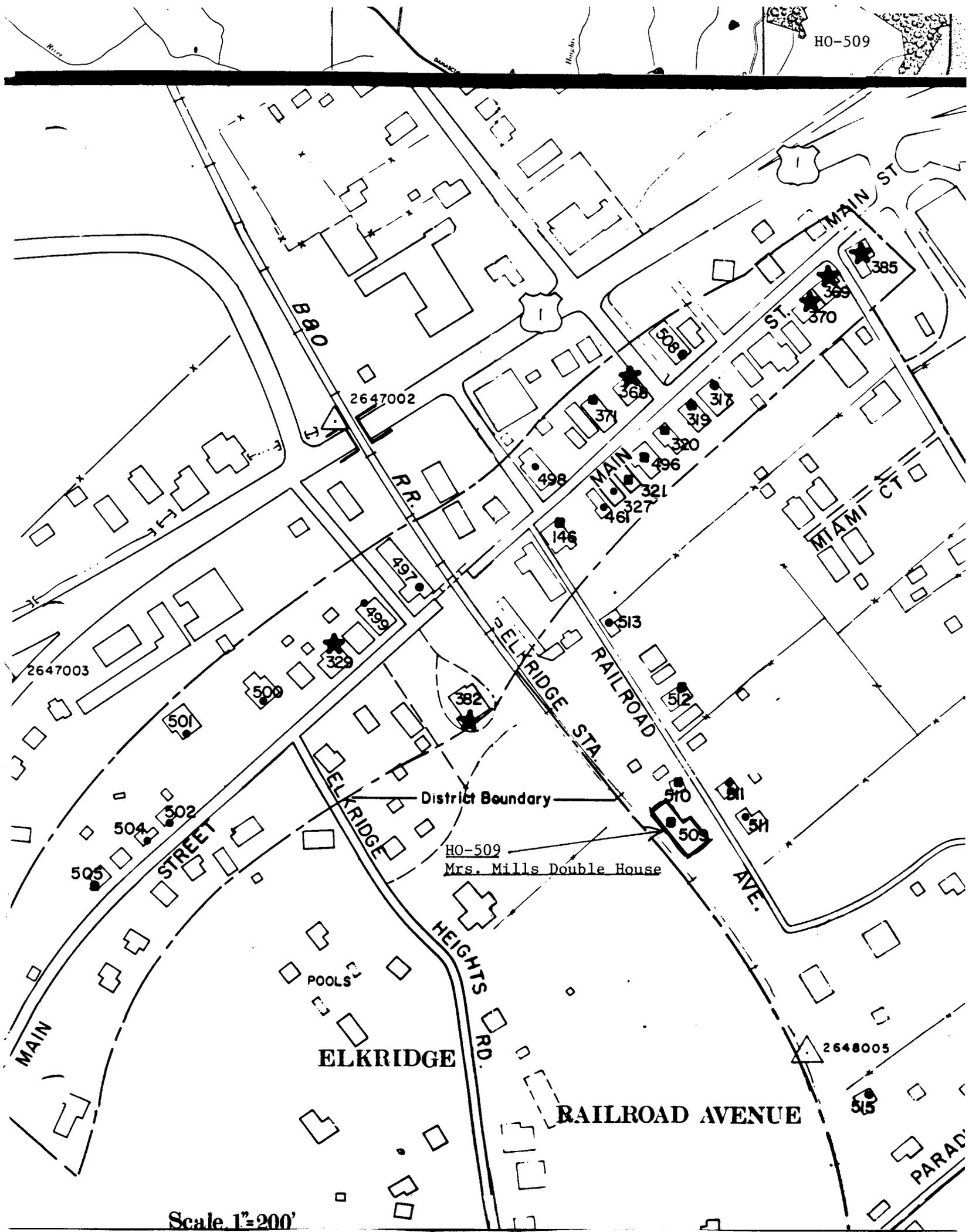
Attachment 5

HO-509

Mrs. Mills Double House (Lot#3)  
 Trustee's Exhibit A for 9 May,  
 1889 - Sale Plat of Property

Sale Plat.

Surveyed by W. J. Robinson  
 March 29 1889.



2647002

2647003

District Boundary

HO-509  
Mrs. Mills Double House

2648005

Scale 1"=200'

ELKRIDGE

RAILROAD AVENUE

MAIN STREET

POOLS

ELKRIDGE STATION

MAIN ST

MIAMI CT

RAILROAD

PARADISE

B B O

RR

ELKRIDGE STATION

AVE.

ST.

MAIN

385

369

370

508

37

363

313

319

320

496

321

461

327

498

146

513

512

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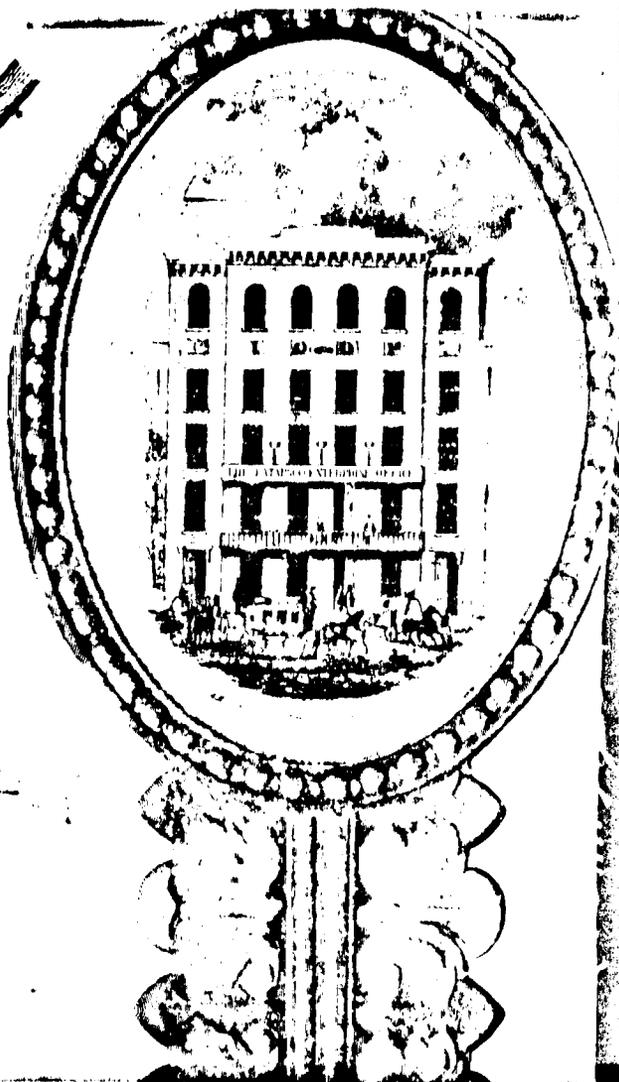
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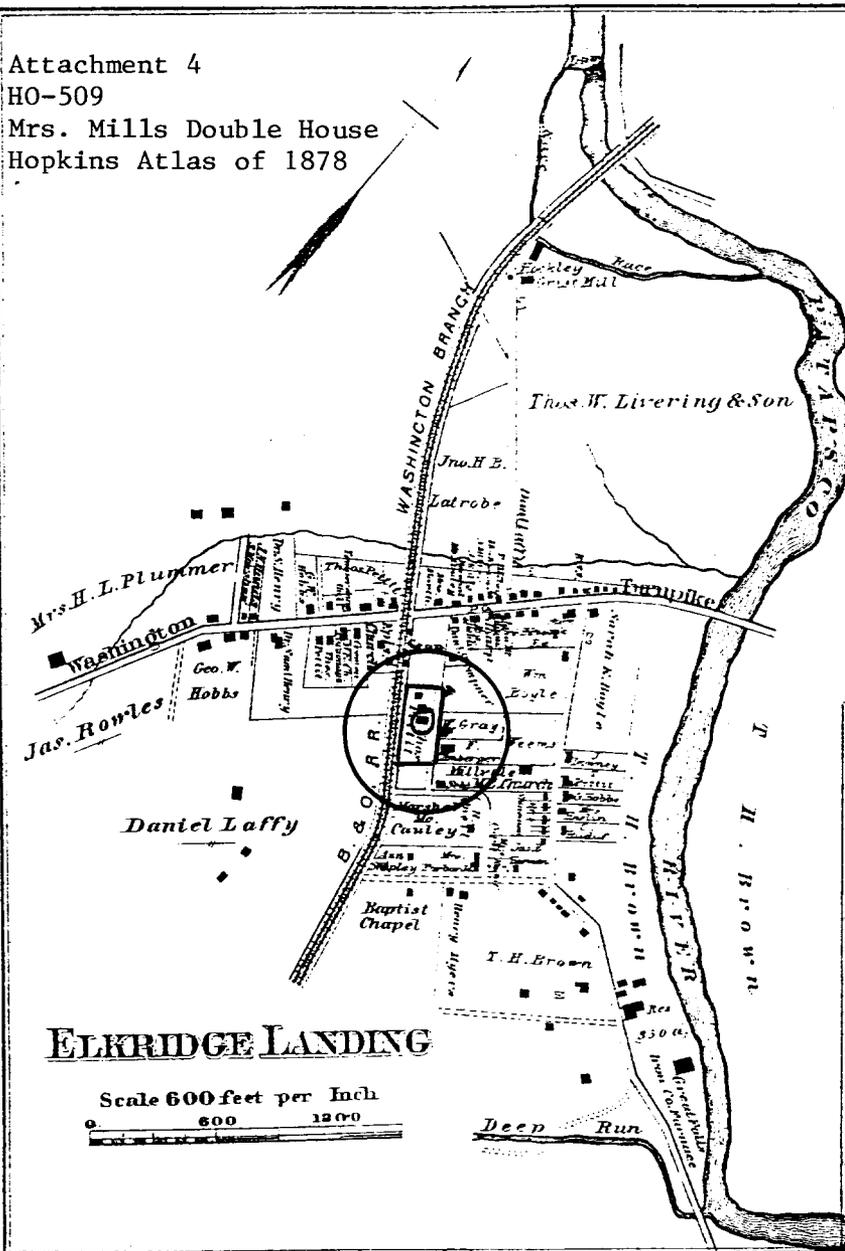


Attachment 3  
 HO-509  
 Mrs. Mills Double House  
 Martennet Map of 1860



Alhambra  
 Mrs. Elliott

Attachment 4  
 HO-509  
 Mrs. Mills Double House  
 Hopkins Atlas of 1878



**Elkridge Landing Business Notices.**

|   |
|---|
| <b>ATTORNEYS AT LAW.</b>  |
| ROBERT A. DOBBINS.  |
| GEORGE W. DOBBINS,<br>42 St. Paul street, Baltimore.                      |
| THOMAS M. DOBBINS,<br>42 St. Paul street, Baltimore.                      |
| <b>BLACSMITHS AND WHEEL-<br/>WRIGHTS.</b>                                 |
| JOHN BRYAN.   |
| JOHN B. HELM.   |
| <b>CARPENTER.</b>   |
| JAMES ROWLES.   |
| <b>ENGINEER.</b>  |
| JOHN N. HANDS.  |
| <b>GENERAL MERCHANTS.</b>   |
| DANIEL LAFFY.   |
| MARSHALL MCCAULEY.  |
| JOSEPH H. TALBOT,   |
| GEORGE W. POCOCK,   |
| <b>POST MASTER.</b>   |
| JAMES EARP.   |
| <b>TINSMITH.</b>  |
| GEORGE LANOB,<br>Tin and Sheet Iron Worker, Roofing and<br>Spouting, etc. |



**FIRST DISTRICT**

**HOWARD COUNTY**

Scale 3 Inches per Mile

**EXPLANATIONS**

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Dist. & Co. Lines   | ----- |
| County Roads  | ----- |
| Private "   | ----- |
| Turapke   | ----- |
| Rail Roads  | ----- |
| Streams   | ----- |
| The figures along the Routes<br>shows the distance in Routes<br>from junction to junction thereof |       |

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1878 by C. M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington

A N N E A





Ho - 509  
Mrs. Mills Double House  
SW

February, 1979

CB Thompson, ACP