

HO-526  
The Jacob Wells House  
Elkridge  
Private

Nineteenth and  
twentieth centuries

The Jacob Wells House faces south, some three to four hundred feet north of Montgomery Road, lying some four to five hundred feet east of its intersection with Meadow Ridge Road.

It is a three bay wide, two room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east west) frame (covered with asbestos shingles) house, resting on a stone foundation with two square, corbeled brick chimneys rising from each side of the center of its gabled roof.

Fenestration is partially vertically aligned and otherwise irregular, though totally rectangular. Entrances appear on the east, west and south elevations of the house, which is presently in a dilapidated state and abandoned.

The house apparently rests on the log joists and old stone foundation of the Jacob Wells House, noted in this vicinity in both the 1860 Martenmet Map and the 1878 Hopkin's Atlas.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MA6I # 140526527

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The Jacob Wells House (ruin)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 5633 Montgomery Road - Route 103 (Now on Sandstone Court)

CITY, TOWN ElkrIDGE VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6th

STATE Maryland COUNTY Howard

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Murray Silverman, et al

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER 11200 Bybee Street

CITY, TOWN Silver Spring VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 20902

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Tax Map 31, p. 215  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

Liber #: 443 505  
Folio #: 456 562

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  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
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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 Jacob Wells House faces south some three to four hundred feet north of Montgomery Road, four to five hundred feet east of its intersection with Meadow Ridge Road.

It is a three bay wide, two room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame (covered with asbestos shingles) house, resting on a stone foundation with two square, corbeled brick chimneys rising from each side of the center of its gabled roof.

South Elevation

The south elevation features a rectangular entrance in the east bay with a double rectangular window in the central bay and a larger single rectangular window in the west bay. Above this latter window rests a vertically aligned, proportionately scaled, second floor rectangular window. A smaller rectangular, second floor window rests in the east side of this wall. This elevation appears to have been altered for there is no plan, uniformity or continuity to its apertures other than the west bay windows.

The West Elevation

The west elevation is decidedly uniform with two second floor windows vertically aligned to the apertures below. A central, rectangular attic window lies above, what was once a hipped roof, open porch has caved in so that the first floor of this elevation is partially covered.

A rectangular entrance door apparently rested in the north bay at this elevation, surmounted by a three light transom (now two lights).

Windows were apparently double hung with flat wooden sills. None of the windows remain but a horizontal bar in the attic window indicating a double-hung sash.

The North Elevation

The north elevation holds a first and second floor vertically aligned window in its west bay, with a smaller rectangular second floor window in its east bay and evidences of first floor openings beneath.

The East Elevation

The east elevation holds a first floor rectangular entrance in its north bay, with evidences of a double rectangular window to its north. The south side of the first floor has deteriorated to such an extent, it is difficult to discern the true openings here. Much of the asbestos shingles, as well as the frame siding has been removed, making a true assessment difficult.

The second floor and attic holds two rectangular windows. Along the eave line of the east and west elevations is decorative molding.

Interior

The interior reveals that the west side of the house was constructed first with a stone foundation on which log joists were placed to hold the first floor. Log beams

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

are also seen supporting the floor of the east side of the house.

Throughout the house the plaster has crumbled and deteriorated to such an extent, that the lathing between the three by four inch studs, constructed at some nineteen inch intervals, has been exposed.

What was once a chimney or mantle piece in the southeast corner room of the house has been covered, while a stove pipe opening appears in the southwest room's brick chimney with its simple mantle piece disengaged from its place, featuring architrave supported by flat pilasters.

A hardwood floor of recent vintage rests on the old log beams in the west section, while random width floor boards, covered with linoleum rest on log beams on the east side of the house, which appears not to have a full basement.

The foundation is apparently old and may well be that of the Jacob Wells House, which stood in this vicinity, noted on both the 1860 Martennet Map and the Hopkins Atlas of 1878.

Another frame tenant house lies northeast of this one.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<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 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) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      circa 1851

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Jacob Wells House is significant to Howard County and the State of Maryland historically as a part of the original land grant of Troy, patented to John Dorsey in 1695 and composed of some 763 acres and architecturally as an interesting composite of a nineteenth century foundation with what is reputed to be the original nineteenth century frame balloon construction of the house constructed by Jacob Wells.

In a title abstract prepared for the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks by Joetta Koppenhoefer, parcel two of this abstract deals with property in this location, noted as Parcel II. It should be noted that Thomas Dorsey, who is mentioned as the grantor in this abstract was the son of Sarah and Basil Dorsey and Basil was the son of Caleb who built Belmont and grandson of John Dorsey who patented Troy in 1695. The will of the Honourable John Dorsey of "Hockley" in 1714 granted to his grandson Basil, of Caleb, my plantation on Elk Ridge. On the death of his mother Sarah, Thomas was the full owner of Troy. A summary and abstract for Parcel II, located in the area of the house under consideration follows:

Thomas had conveyed in trust certain lands to Archibald Moncreiff and William Hammond for benefit of creditors. On May 6, 1790 the three granted to Sarah Dorsey 102-1/2 acres of TROY to satisfy a debt to her. In 1811 these acres were sold to Thomas Lee. The grantors were Dr. Charles A. Warfield, Ann Snowden, Polly Sappington, Jesse and Sarah Tyson. I could not find how the property passed from Sarah Dorsey. The grantors may have been her children or nieces or nephews. Lee mortgaged the property but redeemed it in 1830. At his death the property passed by will to his widow Eleanor. She sold the parcel in 1851 to Jacob Wells and assigned the mortgage to Thomas Lee. It might be assumed that this Thomas Lee was her son. The property description indicates that it was at the northern edge of TROY and located north of today's Montgomery Road. In 1860 and 1878, according to old maps, Jacob Wells was located in that area.<sup>1</sup>

Summary of Parcel II, May 6, 1790:

May 6, 1790                      Thomas Dorsey, Archibald Moncreiff,      NH5/214  
   William Hammond to Sara Dorsey  
   102-1/2 acres TROY

I could not locate the passage from Sarah Dorsey. The following

<sup>1</sup> Koppenhoeffer, Joetta. Troy: A Title Abstract, prepared for the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks.

grantors may have been her children or nieces and nephews.

August 31, 1811	Dr. Charles A. Warfield, Ann Snowden Polly Sappington, Jesse and Sarah Tyson to Thomas Lee 102-1/2 acres	WSG1/305
December 18, 1822	Thomas Lee to John Beale Howard mortgage on 102-1/2 acres	WSG9/145
October 15, 1830	John Beale Howard to Thomas Lee release of mortgage on 102-1/2 acres	WSG15/609
By will to widow of March 3, 1851	Thomas Lee, Eleanor Eleanor Lee to Jacob Wells 90-1/2 acres	10/461
March 11, 1851	Eleanor Lee, widow to Thomas Lee Assignment of mortgage from Wells	10/467

Land records with initials indicate Hall of Records, Annapolis.  
Land records without initials indicate Howard County Court House.<sup>1</sup>

Architecturally the building is noteworthy for its fine stone foundation and log joists which support the first floor. The lathing shown is found in other early nineteenth century houses in Elkrige, while some of the studs are irregular in form, revealing early construction.

For these reasons, this building, in conjunction with the Troy Historic District, should be considered, should its owners so desire, for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places, as well as the State Critical Areas Program and any local landmark ordinance which Howard County may seek to initiate.

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<sup>1</sup>Koppenhoefer, Joetta. Troy: A Title Abstract, prepared for the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Martennet Map of 1860  
Land Records of Howard County  
Koppenhoefer, Joetta. Troy: A Title Abstract prepared for Howard County, Department of Recreation and Parks, 1978

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 76.2484 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 31

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 505 Folio 562  
443 456

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

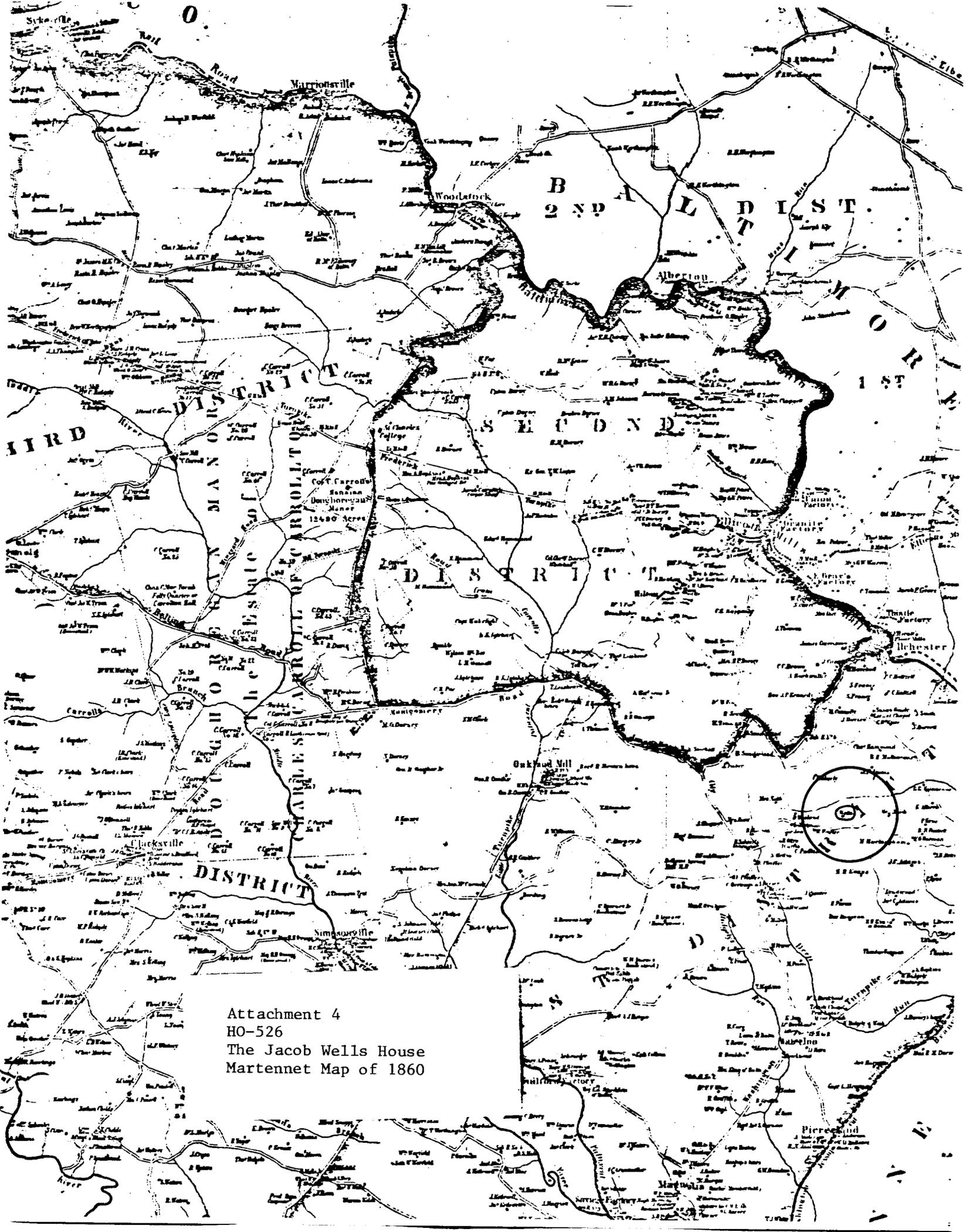
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

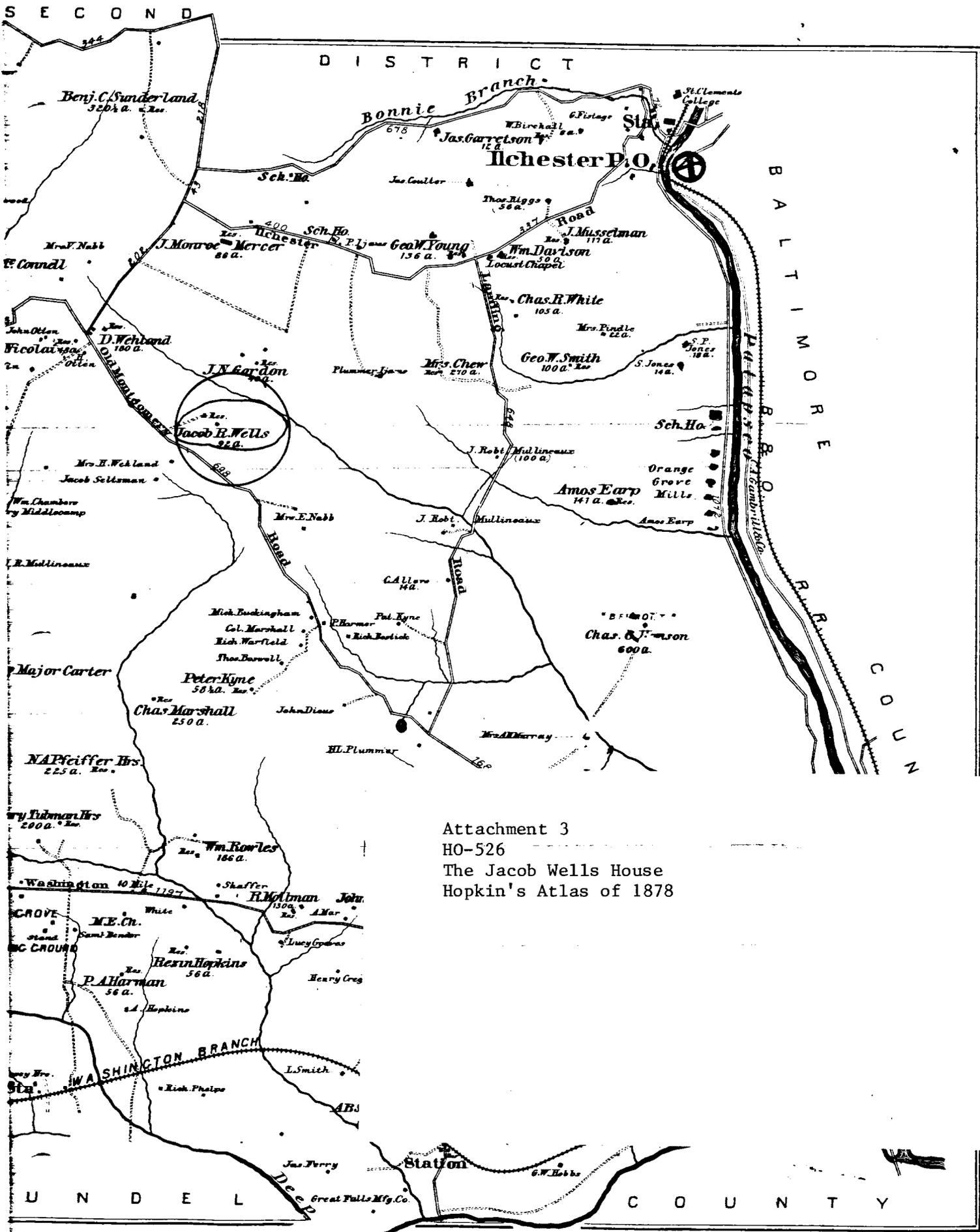
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



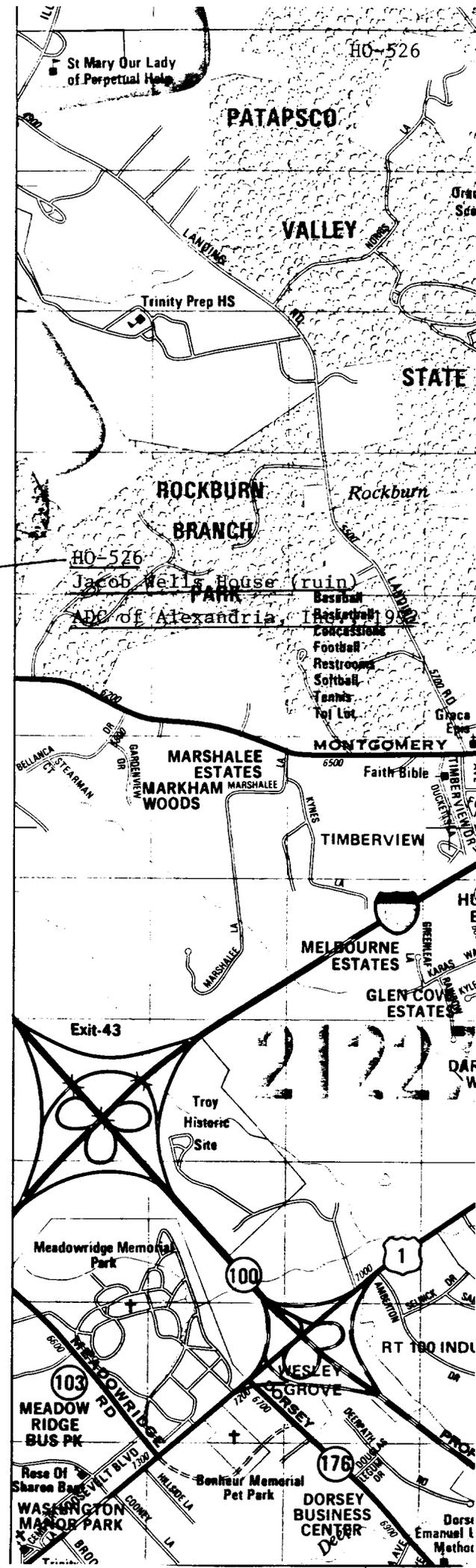
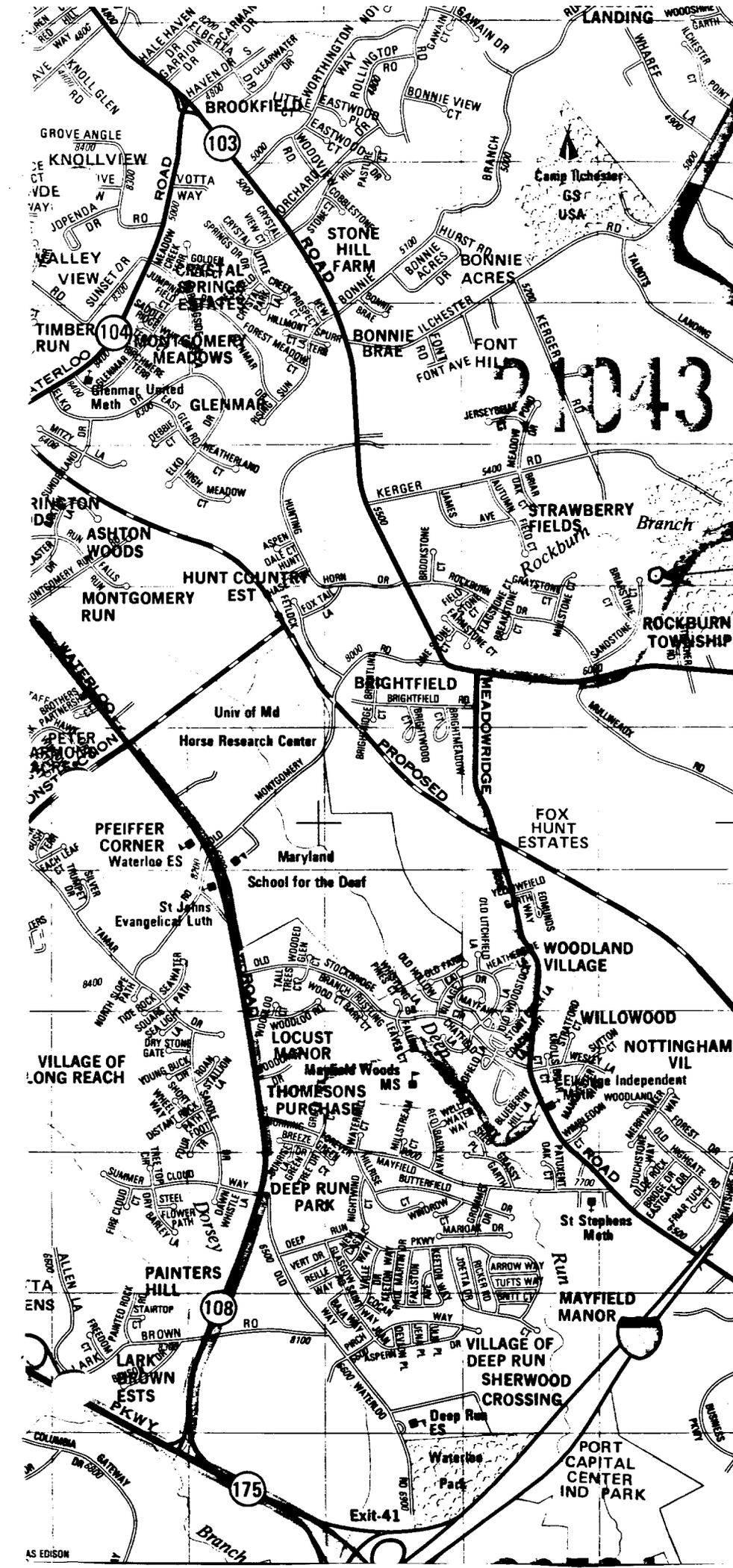




Attachment 4  
HO-526  
The Jacob Wells House  
Martennet Map of 1860



Attachment 3  
 HO-526  
 The Jacob Wells House  
 Hopkin's Atlas of 1878







HO-526  
THE JACOB WELLS HOUSE  
SOUTH

CB THOMPSON, A.I.C.P.  
APRIL, 1979