HO-530
The William Rowles House
Elkridge
Private

circa 1857

The William Rowles House faces south on the north side of Route 1, four tenths of a mile north of its entrance, another four tenths of a mile east of its intersection with Dorsey Road. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame, German siding, (covered with asbestos shingles) house, resting on a stone foundation, with projecting, inter secting gabled roof, central bay, holding a rectangular, double paneled vestibule entrance, flanked by five vertical side lights and surmounted by a five light transom, and unusually wide brick chimneys, which rise, terminating in square twin chimneys, inset into the east and west sides of its north wall.

The building features a "T" plan, created by a two story high, intersecting gable roof (running north-south), frame (covered with asbestos shingles) kitchen and main staircase-hall wing, with square brick chimney inset into its north wall, and one story high shed roofed appendages off its east, west and north elevations, which extendsfrom the middle of the building's north wall.

Double casement, rectangular windows, each component holding thirty two, diamond and triangular shaped lights, rest in the east and west bays of the first floor of the south elevation and in the center of the first and second floors of the east and west elevations.

HO-530
Dist. 1

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: The Rowles House

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 7060 Washington Boulevard (Now Baltimore Washington Boulevard, U.S. 1)

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: Mr. & Mrs. Edward P. Breitschwerdt — Telephone #: 796-1274

STREET & NUMBER: 7060 Washington Boulevard

CITY, TOWN: Elkridge — VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland 21227

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Hall of Records — Tax Map 37, p. 138 — Liber #: 258 Folio #: 571

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
XX EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	XX ORIGINAL SITE
GOOD	RUINS	XX ALTERED	MOVED DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Rowles House faces south on the north side of Route 1, four tenths of a mile north of Route 1, which entrance is 4/10 of a mile east of its intersection with Dorsey Road.

It is a three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame, German siding, (covered with asbestos shingles) house with projecting, intersecting gabled roof, central bay and unusually wide brick chimneys, which rise, ending in square twin chimneys, inset into the east and west sides of its north wall.

A two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, intersecting gabled roof (running north-south), frame (covered with asbestos shingles) kitchen wing, with square brick chimney inset into its north wall, and one story high, shed roofed appendages off its east, west and north elevations extends from the middle of the building's north wall, creating a "T" plan.

One four-over-four light and one one-over-one light, narrow rectangular second floor window , rests in the north wall with another larger staircase landing, rectangular, double-hung window, holding six-over-three lights resting in the southside of the kitchen wing's west wall. This kitchen has become a charming den with stone fireplace and one story high, shed roofed west extension which creates more spaciousness to the room, while the "L" shaped one story high, shed roofed addition on the east side of the original kitchen wing has become the new modern kitchen.

The south elevation features a rectangular, double paneled vestibule entrance door in the central projecting bay, flanked by five vertical side lights and surmounted by a five light transom, which leads into the vestibule which holds two rectangular, cross paneled doors leading into the living and dining rooms. Double casement windows, composed of thirty two, diamond shaped lights rest in the east and west bays of this elevation. These twin-casement windows are divided and flanked by flat pilasters, all of which is surmounted by a flat wooden lintel and underlined by a flat wooden sill. Above rest second floor, diamond shaped windows with four lights, which were added at a later time. A double casement second floor window similar to those below rests in the central projecting bay above the central entrance. A one story high, tin, hipped roof, open porch runs along the entire south elevation, held by six scrolled iron posts, supported by square brick posts set on a cement landing. This cement landing replaces a previous wooden one and the scrolled iron posts replace previous wooden ones, which were decorated with scrolled brackets. An old nineteenth century photograph shows the front of the house, with no diamond shaped, second floor windows and the wooden posts and brackets.

The east and west walls of the house hold tall rectangular, double casement, first and second floor windows, similar to those on the south elevation. The first floor east window is covered by a gabled roof hood, held by diagonal wooden posts.

A gabled roof, one story high, fourteen feet deep, stone ice house lies north of the house and a barn and outbuildings west.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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Dist. 1

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
X 1800-1899	—COMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		—INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1857 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rowles House is significant to Howard county and the State of Maryland historically as a part of the original land grant Troy, patented to John Dorsey in 1695 and composed of some 763 acres, which was later added to and architectually as an interesting example of nineteenth century vernacular architecture in Howard County, Maryland.

The land grant of Troy, patented in 1695 to the Honourable John Dorsey is one of the oldest in Howard County, and remained in the Dorsey family nearly a hundred years.

In 1714, the Honourable John Dorsey willed his plantation at Elk Ridge, Troy, to his grandson Basil of Caleb (of Belmont). Upon the death of Sarch, widow of Basil, the property was conveyed to their son Thomas. Elizabeth Dorsey, mentioned in old deeds was the wife of Thomas, who is believed to have constructed Troy.

Bit by bit, the Dorseys, who have often been referred to as "land poor", having owned at one time or another large tracts of land in every area of Howard County, sold portions of their holdings of Troy, Addition to Troy, Grecian Siege, and Isle of Ely.

By 1851, a Mr. Canby sold 200 acres of Troy to Anthony Johnson and until 1857, according to research of the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, the property changed hands several times. The summary of Parcel IVA follows:

March 11, 1851
Thomas Canby to Anthony m. Johnson
200-½ acres

May 5, 1857	Anthony Johnson to William Rowles 201 acres	18/187
March 23, 1861	William Rowles and Johnson to James Adams 1-½ acres	21/349-½
March 23, 1861	William Rowles to Richard B. Warfield 10 acres	21/371
March 23, 1861	William Rowles and Johnson to Charles Rowles 4 acres	21/369

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Summary of Parcel IVA (cont.)

June 29, 1880		William Rowles to Franklin Christian Kane (Morris) Rowles 413/4 acres	42/376
January 21, 1891		Franklin and Ida Rowles to Edward and Florence Bealmear 41-3/4 acres, 20 acres	57/31
	1891	Samual Dashiell to William Rowles 144 acres (59 acres sold off)	57/24
	1913	Franklin and Ida Rowles to John & Mary Shaab 144 acres, exc. 20a, 39a	94/315
January 4,	1915	Shaab to Edward Bealmear 144 a., exc.	98/289
July 24,	1954	Mary Edna Bealmear to Edward Breitschwerdt 144 acres, seven exceptions	258/571
	1913	Franklin and Ida Rowles etc.	

As you can see this parcel was sold off in many little pieces, particularly after 1900. Some of the other names figuring in later ownership of small pieces are; Emma Rebecca Thompson; Charles St. Clair Thompson, Louise Perry, J.W. Marriott, Eugene Perry and Robert and Alleen Rorabaugh.

From 1857 to today the property has been owned by the Rowles associated family. The building was probably constructed between the years 1857 when Mr. Rowles bought the property and 1860, when it is noted on the 1860 Martennet Map.

Architectually, it is one of the most outstanding houses in Howard County, featuring, original, unique double casement, rectangular windows with thirty two triangular and diamond shaped lights, a central, intersecting gabled roof, projecting bay holding the building's first floor entrance vestibule and a fine double entrance, flanked by five vertical side lights and surmounted by a five light transom.

In addition, the two wide, interior brick chimneys, inset into the north wall of the building, terminate in square, twin, brick chimneys with corbeled edging, creating an Italianate effect. This, along with such interior features as the very large rectangular double paneled doors, which are set into the dividing wall between two equal rooms and an original grey marble fireplace with flat pilasters and architrave, decorated with a central projecting shield in the west room, as well as the decorated barge boards on the projecting, intersecting gable on the south elevation offer additional evidence for a mid nineteenth century building date.

For these reasons the William Rowles House should its owners so desire, shouls be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, in conjunction with the Troy Historic District, the State Critical Areas Program and any local landmark legislation, which the citizens of Howard County may seek to initiate.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Howard County
Koppenhoefer, Joetta. Troy: A Title Abstract prepared for Howard County, Department Recreation and Parks, 1978
Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Breitschwerdt at the Rowles House, April 19, 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 65.30 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 37

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 258 Folio 571

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

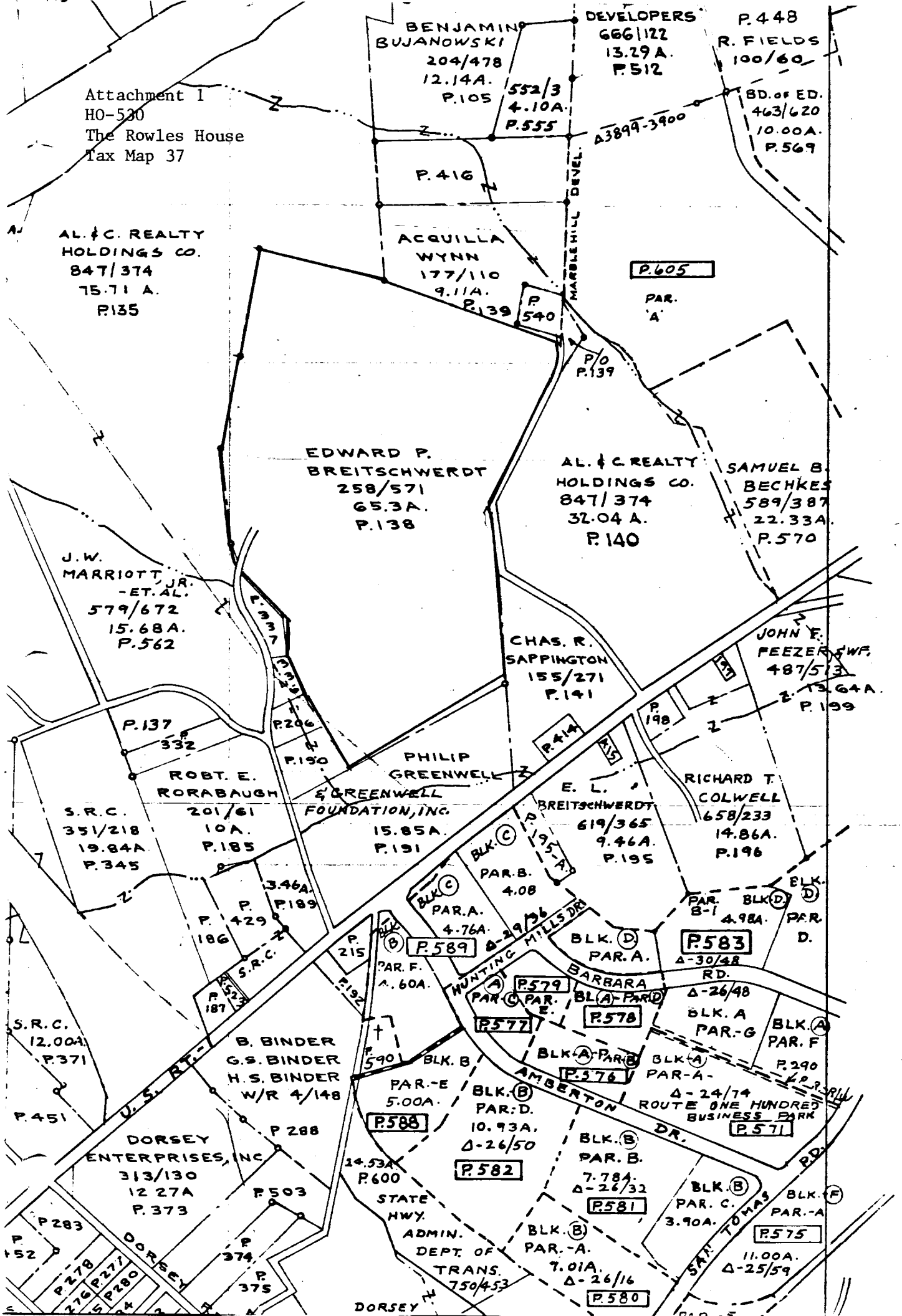
STATE
Maryland

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

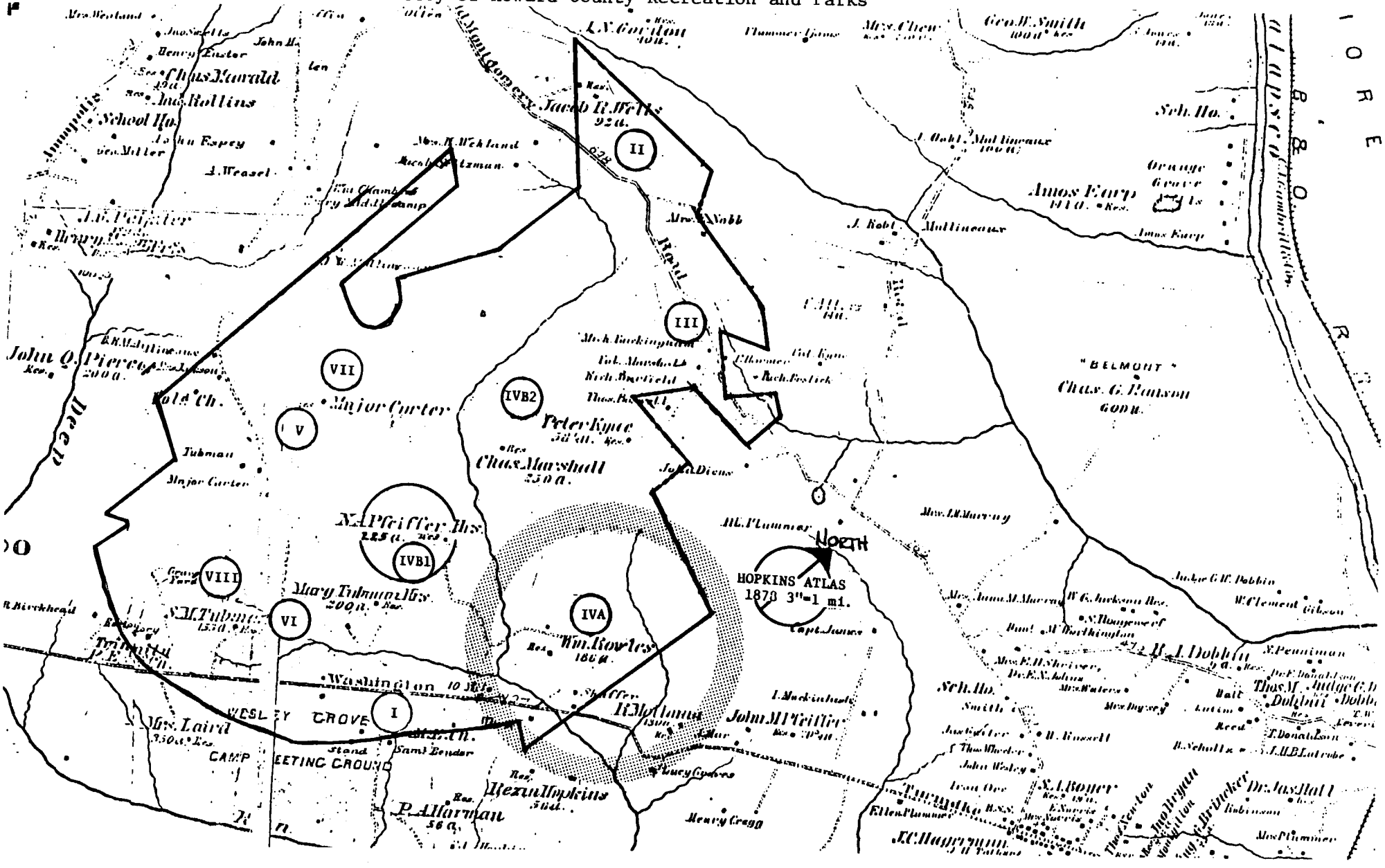
Attachment 1
HO-530
The Rowles House
Tax Map 37

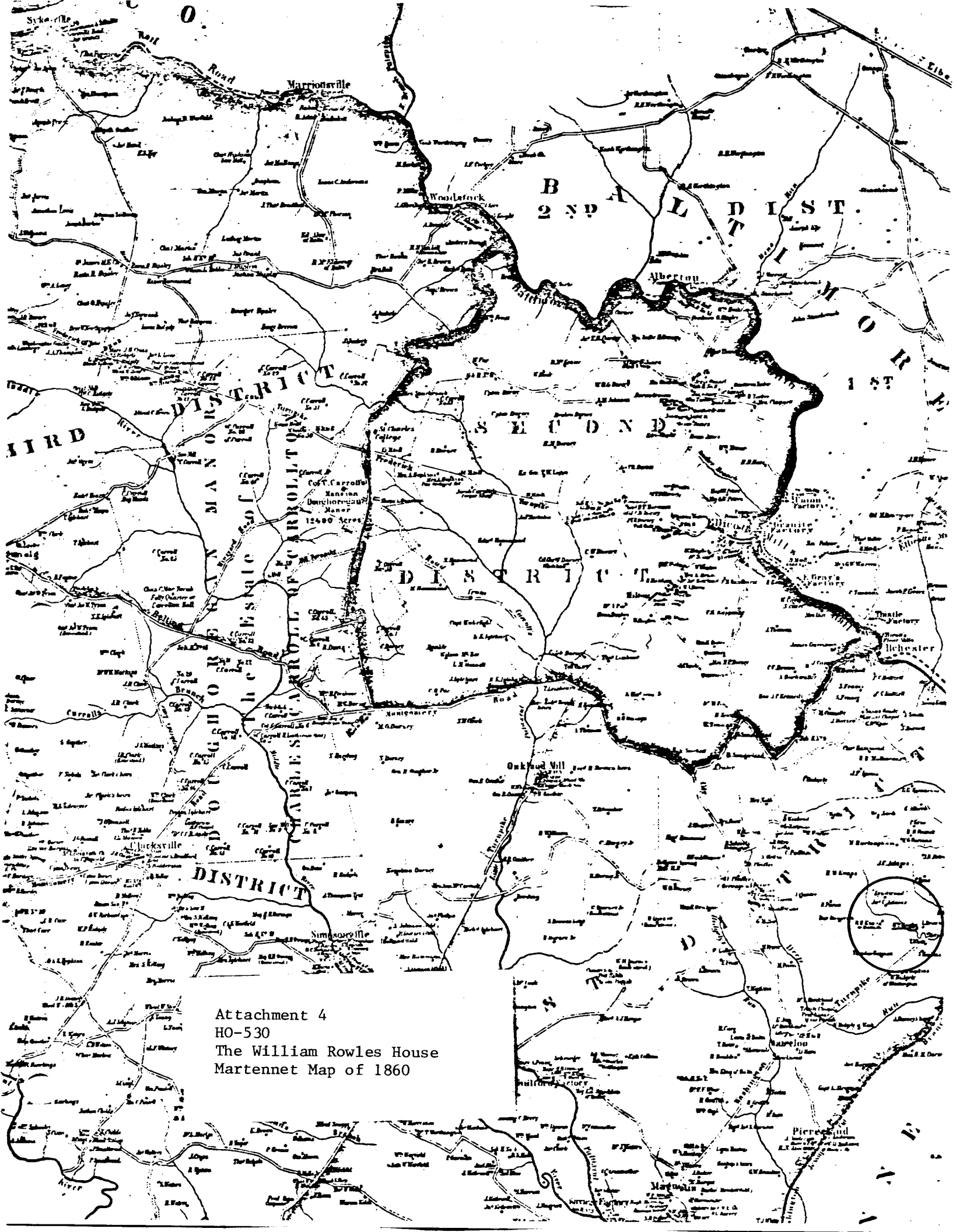


498

495

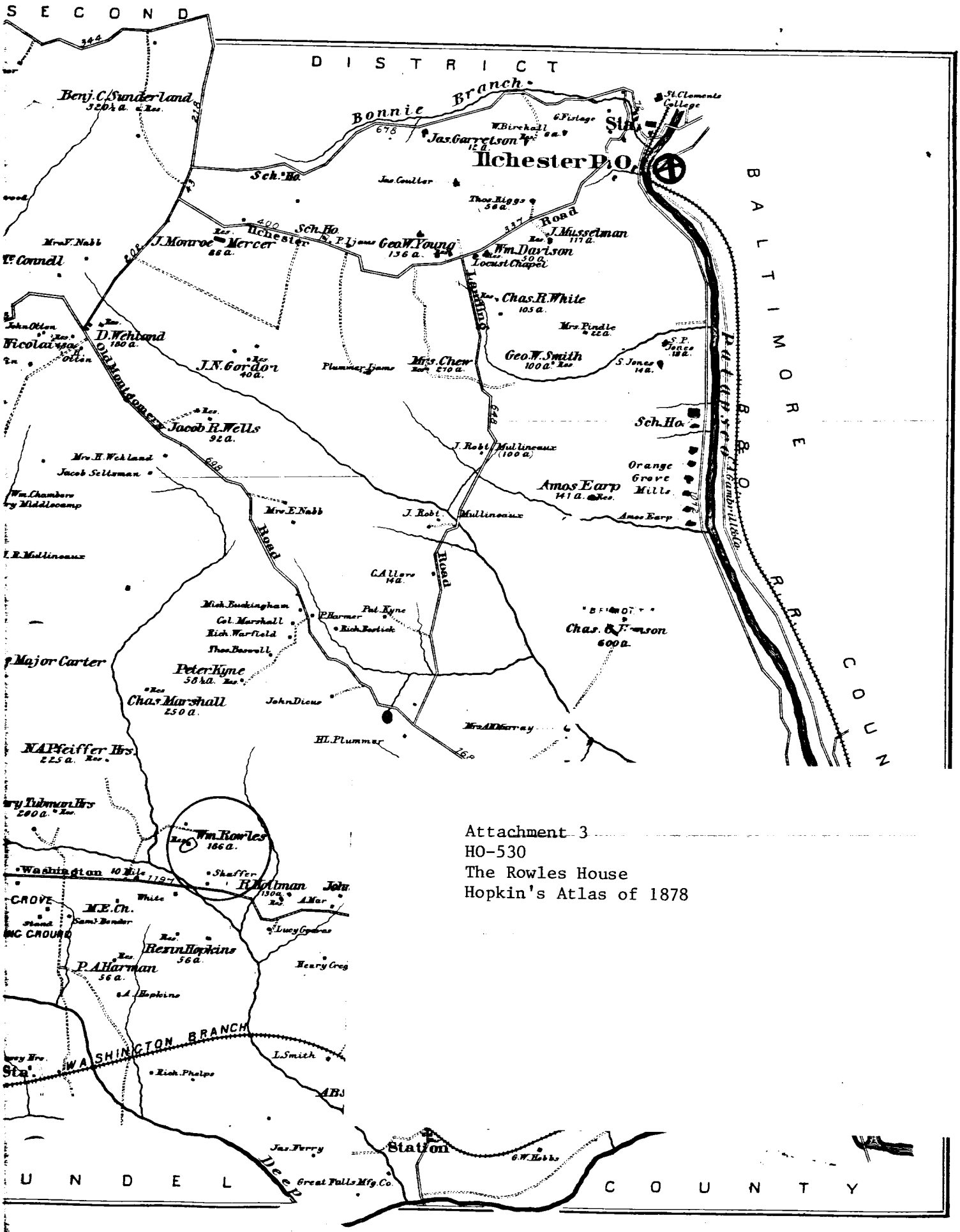
Attachment 5
HO-530
The Rowles House
Hopkin's Atlas of 1878 with outline of Troy and the Rowles House indicated
Courtesy of Howard County Recreation and Parks





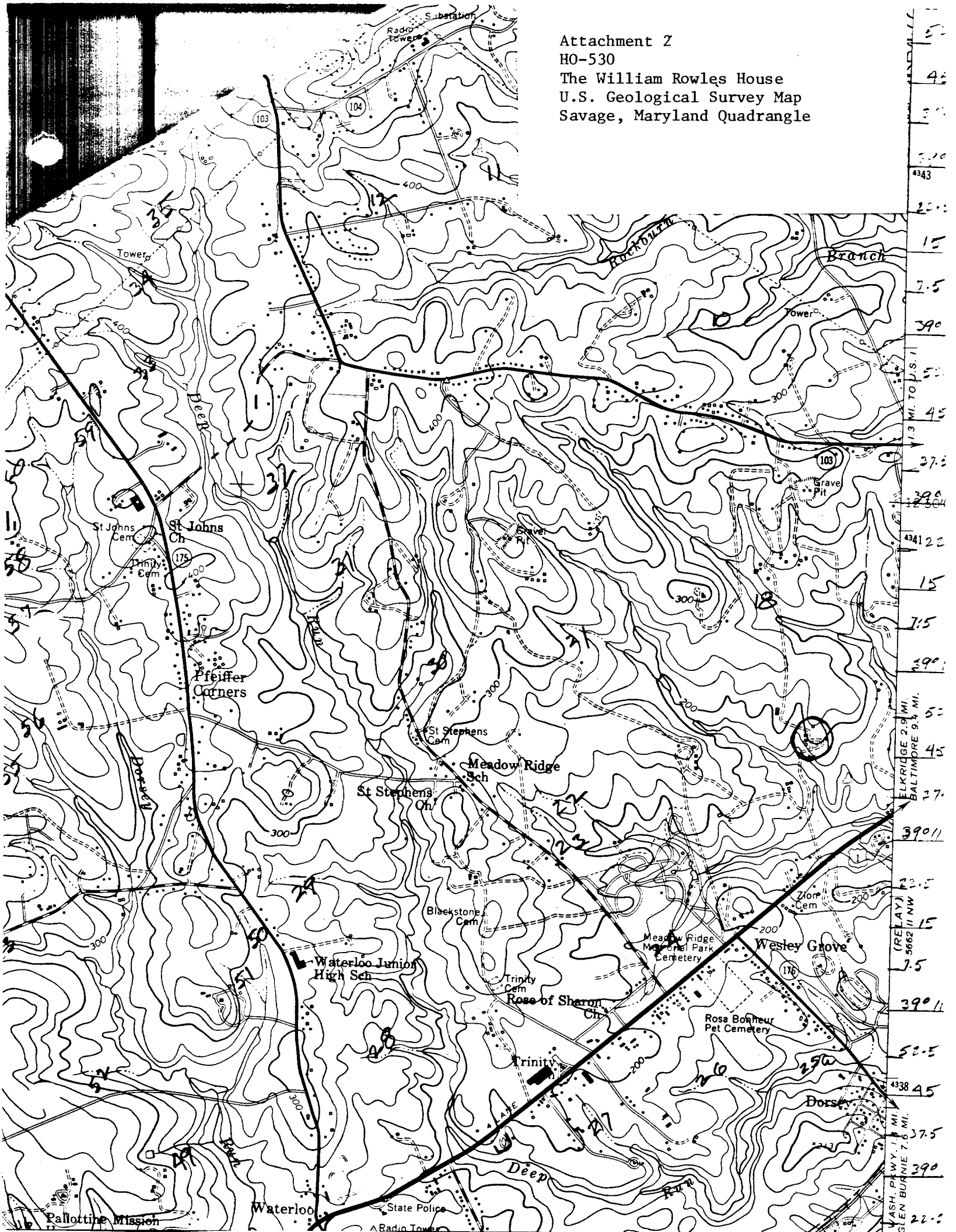
Attachment 4
HO-530
The William Rowles House
Martennet Map of 1860

1ST



Attachment 3
HO-530
The Rowles House
Hopkin's Atlas of 1878

Attachment Z
HO-530
The William Rowles House
U.S. Geological Survey Map
Savage, Maryland Quadrangle



HO - 530
THE ROWLES HOUSE
SOUTHEAST
CB THOMPSON, AICP
APRIL - 1979