MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___ no

JUL 25 2003

Property Name: The William Brian [not Bryan] House Inventory Number: HO-559

Address: 3997 Old Columbia Pike City: Ellicott City Zip Code: 21043

County: Howard USGS Topographic Map: Ellicott City, MD Quad

Owner: David P. Farner and Catherine Jeschke Is the property being evaluated a district? No yes

Tax Parcel Number: 286 Tax Map Number: 24 Tax Account ID Number: 211165

Project: Nelson Property/The Woods of Tiber Branch Agency: _____

Site visit by MHT Staff: ____ no ____ yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Is the property located within a historic district? ____ yes No No

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: _____

NR-listed district ____ yes Eligible district ____ Yes District Name: _____

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ___ yes ___ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ____

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ____ yes N no

No, with the information gathered to date.
Possibly yes, but only with confirmation of an historical relationship between 19th Century property owners of this land and "Pleasant Fields," HO-405.

Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MIHP Form, Howard County Historical Society, Land Records

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The William Brian House faces west on the east side of Old Columbia Pike, 6/10 of a mile north of its intersection with Route 103. Although the house is set relatively close to the road, closer than many of its neighbors, landscaping now makes it difficult to see the two and 1/2 story front facade which is composed of two halves – each a two-bay section, the slightly wider northeast one in frame and the more compact southwestern one of ashlar granite. The two halves are still unified by a shallow pitched gable roof whose ridge runs parallel to the Pike. They once shared a single front porch with hipped roof porch. Its asymmetrical rubble infill outline on the stone façade implies that not only was a porch original to the stone structure's construction, but also that the stone half of the building may have been added to an earlier frame portion of the house.

The ashlar extends around the dwelling only as quoins along the corners. The granite appears to be the same stone used throughout much of Ellicott City, quarried locally along the railroad tracks. The secondary walls are rubble with large granite window lintels. Not only was the front porch removed, but also the brick chimney extending above the central load-bearing wall within the frame section. (See MIHP Form 622, c. 1980 photo by Cleora Thompson.) A square, two-story, shed-roofed addition extends off the rear of the frame section, constructed in 1993, and visually integrated by continuous siding. Most

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ____ **Eligibility not recommended** X

Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D **Considerations:** ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None

Comments: _____

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services — Date 8/1/03

Reviewer, NR Program — Date 8/7/03

windows in the house are 6/6, with the exception of those in the NE corner of the new addition. The property is in good condition, having been totally renovated in 1993, but significant portions of the historic fabric were altered during the 1993 renovation, compromising the architectural integrity. This house no longer embodies sufficient distinctive characteristics of a mid 19th Century Ellicott Mills granite dwelling to warrant individual NR nomination under Crierion C. It has no chimney, no pre-1993 staircase, no front porch, no access to the cellar under the granite portion of the house (closed up).

Current owners Farner and Jeschke undertook major renovations to the collapsing structure at the end of 1993. The front porch, standing seam roofing, rear additions and the brick chimney were quite deteriorated, and were removed. Ms. Jeschke, an architectural historian, indicated[1] that (1) the foundation/cellar for the front two sections has not changed, (2) no footprint for a rear addition to the stone section appeared to exist, (3) there was no evidence of a stair in the stone section, and (3) no chimney served the stone section independently (back-to-back fireplaces shared the one chimney in the southwestern end of the frame section. When the balloon-framing supporting wallboard covered with wallpaper was uncovered, the current owners came to the conclusion that the frame section now standing was erected in the 1910s or 1920s, consistent with the architectural styling of the house's only staircase (open stair with simple square stock balusters), which was replaced at the time of the 1993 renovation. She believes, based on the balloon framing, narrow floors boards of uniform width, wallpaper applied directly to wallboard (no plaster or paint) and the simple open railing of the winder staircase, that the existing frame section dates to the first quarter of the 20th Century.

Jeschke noted that there had been a dry-stacked, circular stone wall approximately 3' above grade and 5' in diameter (the well?) in the widest part (rear) of their trapezoidal lot and there had been remains of a stone foundation for a small, remote outbuilding when they took over the property. These stone were used in subsequent landscaping projects. Jescke also remarked that the previous owners had once shared a septic system with the American Four Square property to the southwest, apparently linked when members of the same family (Brians and Gaithers) occupied both houses. The back yard of the now .81 acre right angle trapezoidal lot has a modern patio, swimming pool and shed.

While the basic architectural character of this structure is typical of Ellicott City's vernacular, granite and frame 19th Century residential architecture and construction, the real interest that may make this property unique is its relationship to the larger parcel of land from which it was carved in the 19th Century. The current tax assessment records date the structure to 1860, although it could be earlier as the architectural styling of the stone section closely mimics "Tongue Row," a small group of mill workers dwellings constructed further in town on Old Columbia Pike (a block off Main Street within the Ellicott City Historic District). Joetta Cramm's[2] research indicates the Tongue Row buildings were built in pairs c. 1842 and 1843.

The 1860 Martenet Map attributes the dwelling to Elizabeth Benoy. Census records as far back as 1850[3] list her as a separate household, 44, English, and blind, with daughter Mary J., 13. While no specific evidence has yet been uncovered, it is not unreasonable to speculate that the owners (Talbotts or Hayden) of "Talbot's Last Shift"/"Pleasant Fields" may have given Elizabeth Benoy a piece of land or sold the small parcel to her from their much larger holdings. When Benoy transferred the land in 1871 to her adult, married daughter, it was one acre.

By 1870, William Brian, 43, is listed in the census as head of household, and his trade was stonemason. His wife Mary, 52 [error – should be 32], was keeping house and had foreign-born parents. Her mother Elizabeth Benoy, 64, who resided with them, was not able to write, probably because she was blind. Also at home were five children: Florence, 15, Rosa, 13, Georgia, 11, Ida, 9, and Charles, 1. The 1862 draft report[4] lists William "Brine" as 30 and a stonemason from Ellicott Mills, as Ellicott City was called at the time.

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[1] Telephone interview 7/7/03.

[2] Joetta Cramm is well-respected local researcher, historian, and author.

[3] 1850 Census of the Howard District of the then encompassing Anne Arundel County. William Brian (Brine, Bryan) is not listed in the indexed version of this census. Since Benoy was not included in the household of Hayden, one must assume she was living in her own residence at the time.

[4] The Civil War Enrollment and Draft of 1862 in Howard County. Joseph N. Nichols and Richard W. Bush. Columbia, MD Howard County Geneological Society, Inc., 2001.

In a June 1871 deed (Liber WWW 31, Folio 154), Elizabeth Benoy gave the buildings and one acre of land, being part of the tract known and called by the name of "Pleasant Fields" to her daughter, Mary J. Brian, wife of William Brian. It specifically makes reference to a black rock near the house and a stone wall. Elizabeth Benoy signed the deed with an "X," but there is absolutely no reference to a previous deed or will that might explain how she came to inherit this acre of "Pleasant Fields." [5]

Perhaps Mary married the mason who built the stone house for her mother, or perhaps she and her mother already lived on the land in a frame dwelling (replaced later in the early 20th Century atop the earlier 19th Century foundation) and when Mary and William Brian married after he finished constructing "Pleasant Fields" for Hayden,[6] he built the stone addition for their growing family. These relationships remain speculative and unclear. The age, architectural styling comparable to Ellicott City's 19th Century granite buildings, and a possible relationship between this house/family and the large more prestigious "Talbot Last Shift"/"Pleasant Fields" property could be further explored in the records of the MD Historical Society prior to considering National Register eligibility.

The 1878 Hopkins Map erroneously spells the Brian name as "Bryan." This error was carried forward into the MIHP Form done in 1980 by Cleora Thompson.

The 1880 census lists William Brian as 52 and a stone mason, with wife Mary J., 40, keeping house with nine children: Florence, 23, Rosa, 21 (both teaching school), and Georgia, 19, Ida, 17, Willie, 16, Charles, 10, Walter, 8, at school and little ones Edith, 6,and Nannie, 1, at home. Also listed is mother-in-law, Elizabeth Benoy, blind, born in England, as were her parents. The 1920 census lists Mary J. Brian, 82, as head of household and owning the house. Widowed, she lived with her daughters Ida, 50, single and a teacher in public school, and Edith, 45, and a lodger Sadie Heath, 17, who served as housekeeper for the family.

In 1921 (Liber 112, Folio 342), Mary J. Brian sold a small part of the lot to Irvin Gaither, assumedly for the construction of his American Four Square house just to the south of the frame and stone house.

On 7 June 1955, Nancy L. Brian [probably the "Nannie" born in 1879], single, daughter of Mary J. Brian, transferred the property to Mary R. Gaither, who was her unmarried niece.[7] Gaither sold it to Albert A. German and wife Margaret in 1964. Margaret German sold it in 1978 to David Booth. Two years later David J. Booth and Sandra E. Booth sold the land to John Josselson. Josselson died on 8 October 1992, and his Personal Representative sold the property to the current owners David P. Farner and Katherine Jeschke in 1993.

In the middle of the 19th Century, Elizabeth Benoy and her daughter, Mary J., may have lived in a frame or log dwelling on the foundation of the NW corner of the current building. William Brian, Mary's husband may have built the stone addition for their expanding family, explaining why there was no separate chimney nor staircase for the stone section of the house. The stone section has its original random width (approx. 3 ¼" up to 12-13") flooring, but the only access to its partial basement was from the frame section's cellar and the only access to the second floor was through the frame section also.

The questions remain: How did a blind woman from England and her daughter end up living on this lot prior to the construction of Pleasant Fields to the south? What was the relationship between Benoy and the Talbot or Hayden families.? Was there a relationship between Mary J. Benoy Brian's husband, William Brian, who was a stonemason, and the construction of Pleasant Fields in 1848-1850? Was there indeed another frame or log structure atop the random granite stone foundation, typical of Ellicott City's 19th Century buildings that now bears the early 20th Century frame section? Answers to these questions could confirm the historical significance of this property, possibly leading to its eligibility for the National Register under Criterion B in conjunction with the "Pleasant Fields" property. As it stands, the property does not appear to be eligible for NR listing under Criteria A, B, or C.

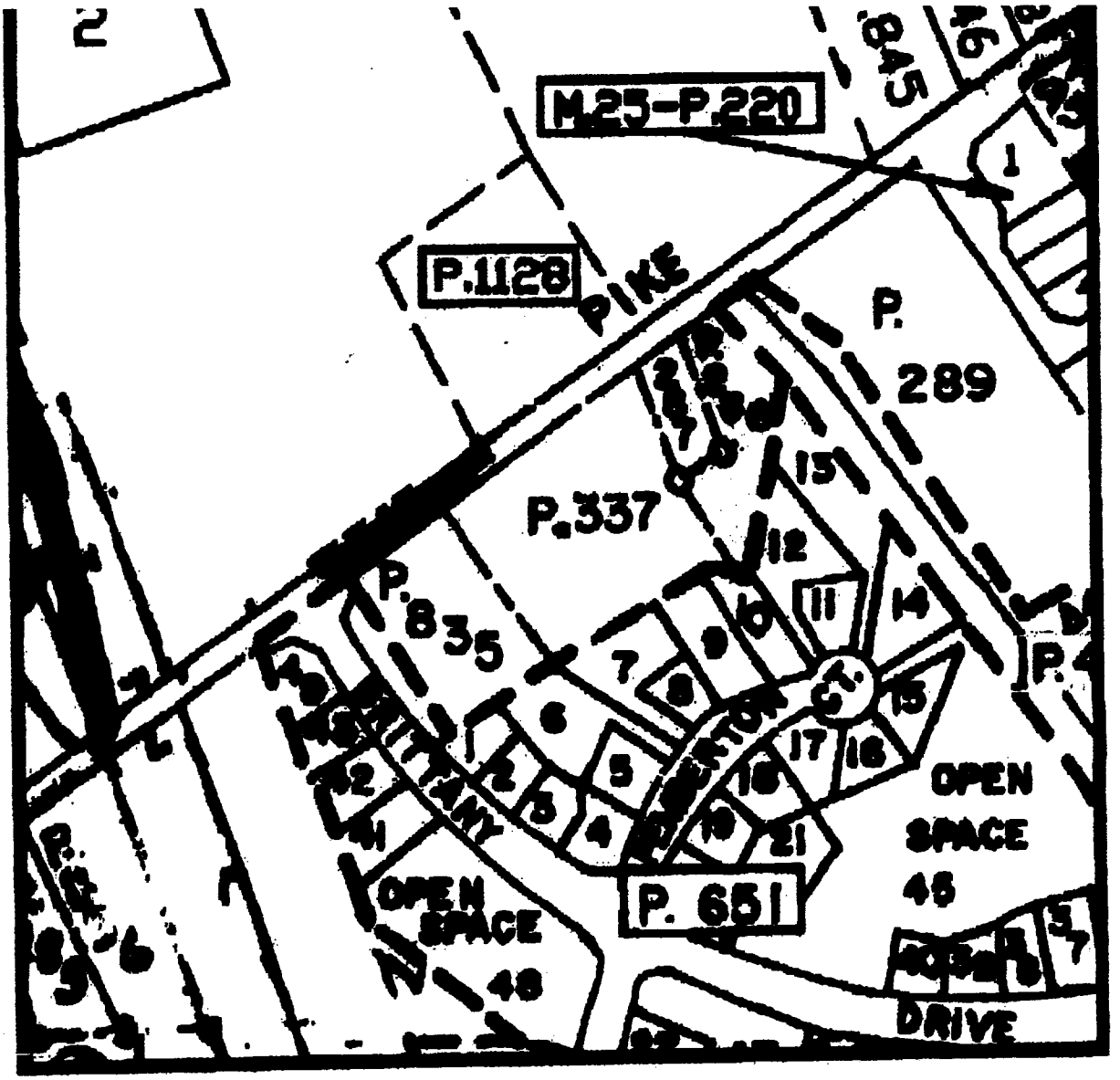
Prepared by: Lisa Jensen Wingate Date Prepared: 7/7/2003

[5] Even the Land Records Grantor and Grantee Indexes offer no clue as to who might have given or sold her the land.

[6] William Brian was not listed in the 1850 Census in the Howard district, though he could have finished working for Hayden, the owner of "Pleasant Fields" at the time.

[7] Rose M. Gaither, her husband and her son owned the parcel to the south with the American Four Square on it from 1930-1966.

The William Brian House HO-559

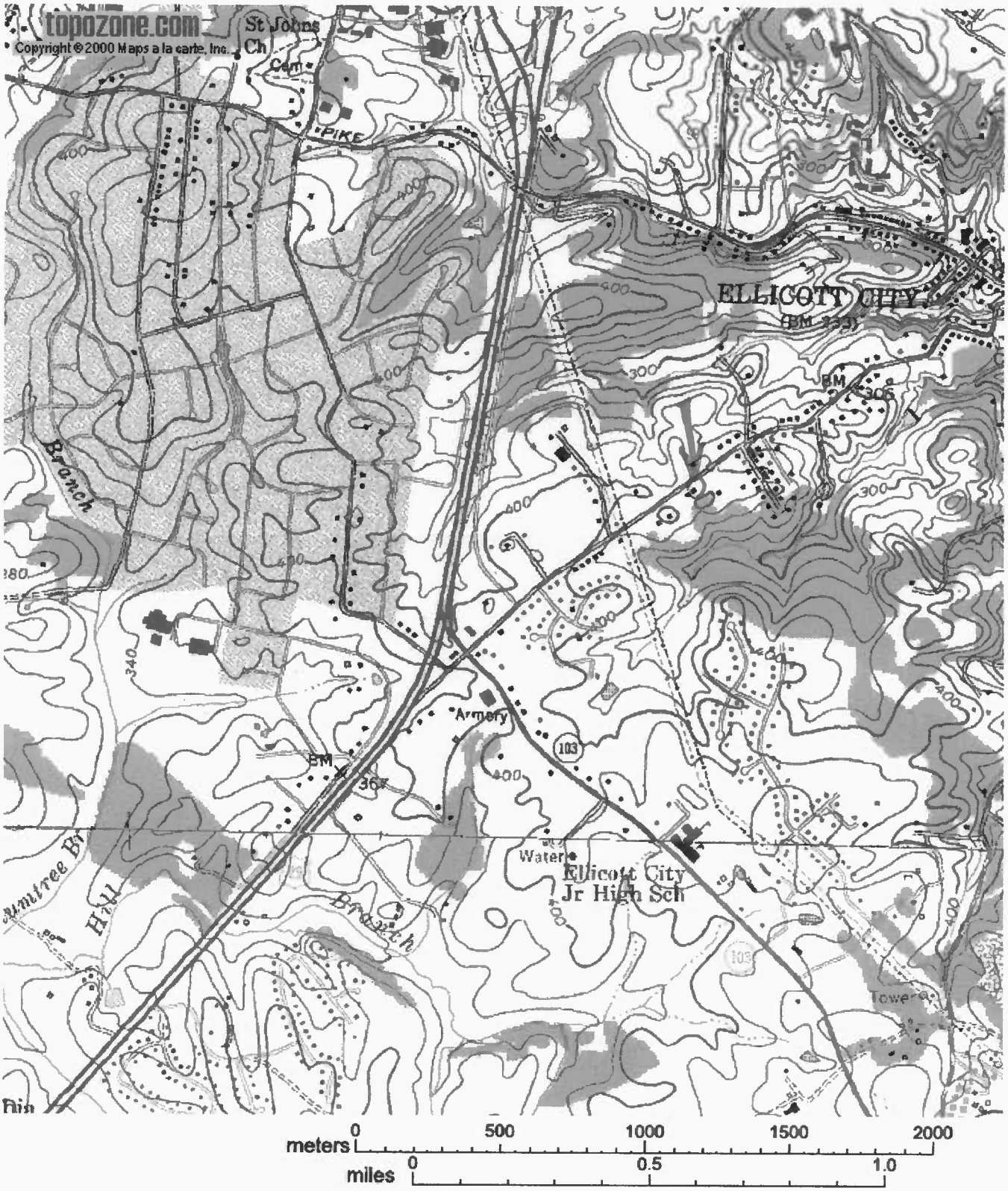


Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning ©2001.
For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning web site at www.mdp.state.md.us

William Brian House

HO-559

Map center is UTM 18 343732E 4347154N - **ELLICOTT CITY** quad [Quad Info



HO-559

William Brian House
Old Columbia Pike
Ellicott City, Howard County MD
L Jensen Wingate
6/03
MD SHPO

NW / front elevation
(frame section @ left is obscured by landscaping)

HO-559

William Brian House
Old Columbia Pike
Ellicott City Howard Co. MD
L Jensen Wingate
6/03
MD SHPO

NE elevation:
to left of electric meter is 1993 addition.
" right " " " " early 20th century
frame section covered in siding.

HO-559 Brian
The William ~~Bryan~~ House
Ellicott City
Private

Circa 1860

The William ~~Bryan~~ Brian House faces west on the east side of Old Columbia Pike, 6/10 of a mile north of its intersection with Route 103.

It is a two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) stone house, resting on a stone foundation, with wide brick chimney inset into its north wall, and a two bay wide, one room deep, two story frame (covered with wooden shingles) northwing, resting on a full, stone foundation, extending from the north wall of the stone house.

A one story high, one bay wide, one room deep, gabled roof (running east-west) stone, summer kitchen lies east of the north extension.

One and two story high, shed roofed, frame appendages run along the east wall of both the stone house and its north extension, providing from north to south, a two story high kitchen wing, a one story high central kitchen extension, and a two story high, shed roofed tool shed, with large, second floor closet above.

The building may well date back to much earlier than 1860. By that time, however, a building is noted at this location on the Martennet Map of 1860 and later on the Hopkins Atlas of 1878, the latter of which notes it as the residence of a William Bryan.

HO-559
Ellicott City Quad
District 2
MAGI #1405595504

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The William ~~Bryan~~ Brian House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 3997 Old Columbia Pike (MD 987)

CITY, TOWN Ellicott City ___ 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 David J. and Sandra E. Booth Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER 3997 Old Columbia Pike

CITY, TOWN Ellicott City ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code Maryland 21043

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Tax Map 24, blk. 18, p. 286 Hall of Records

Liber #: 889
Folio #: 538

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 William ~~Bryan~~ Brian House faces west on the east side of Old Columbia Pike, 6/10 of a mile north of its intersection with Route 103.

It is a two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) stone house, resting on a stone foundation, with wide brick chimney inset into its north wall, and a two bay wide, one room deep, two story, frame (covered with wooden shingles) north wing, resting on a full, stone foundation, extending from the north wall of the stone house.

A one story high, one bay wide, one room deep, gabled roof (running east-west) stone, summer kitchen lies east of the north extension.

One and two story high, shed roofed, frame appendages run along the east wall of both the stone house and its north extension, providing from north to south, a two story high kitchen wing, a one story high, central, kitchen extension, and a two story high, shed roofed, tool shed, with large second floor closet above.

THE WEST FACADE

The west facade holds two central bay, rectangular, cross paneled entrance doors, featuring old hardware and china knobs, flanked by end bay, rectangular, double windows, holding six-over-six lights. Four similar, vertically aligned windows rest above.

A one story high, hipped roof, open porch runs along this entire elevation.

THE NORTH & SOUTH ELEVATIONS

The north wall of the frame extension and the south wall of the stone house hold similar, central, first and second floor windows.

THE INTERIOR

The plan for the interior of the stone house features one large room downstairs and one large room upstairs. A similar arrangement downstairs for the frame extension is modified by the addition of a central hall and bath on the second floor.

The downstairs room of the stone section, once the living room, holds a marble mantlepiece on its north wall, featuring a roman arched opening, decorated with key stone. The room is lighted by an east, west and south window, and its wide random width floors are of tongue-and-groove construction.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The upstairs room is large and well lighted by an east, west and south window and also features similar floors. An interesting battenwood door is centered into the room's north wall, leading into the hall of the north extension.

The large downstairs room of the north extension is lighted by a north and west window, and features wide random width, floors, featuring tongue- and groove construction. An interior entrance way on its east wall leads into a modern, well equipped kitchen, lighted by an east window. An open staircase, featuring square ballusters, runs along the east wall of the frame extension, leading to the second floor.

This second floor holds a bedroom in the north bay of the frame extension, lighted by north and west windows. A rectangular cross paneled entrance door, featuring pegged mortise and tenon construction, leads from the hall into the bedroom, which also holds a small, battenwood door, leading into a second floor play room, located over the kitchen extension. This room is lighted by a rectangular, double-hung window, holding two-over-two lights and was probably constructed circa 1910.

The south bay of the frame extension holds a hall and staircase on its east side and a modern bath on its west.

The floors for this section of the house, both upstairs and down are similar to those in the stone section, suggesting a rather early date of construction, circa mid 19th century.

The house is in excellent condition and is bordered by a lovely garden, which extends eastward to the property line.

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	__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	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1860 **BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William ~~Bryan~~ Brian House is significant to Howard County and the State of Maryland historically, through its association with the William Bryan family of Howard County and architecturally as a fine example of a mid-nineteenth century stone dwelling with an early frame addition.

Historically, a building is noted at this location on both the Martennet Map of 1860 and the Hopkin's Atlas of 1878, and is believed to be the present house, which stands here today.

Architecturally, this stone-frame building is significant as an example of Howard County's vernacular stone architecture, originally a two room house, one room upstairs and one room downstairs, with a stone kitchen, which is located northeast of the original stone building. The first floor of the stone house holds a roman arched, marble mantlepiece which leads to a belief that circa 1860 one of two things happened to the house: 1) It was newly constructed, or 2) it was remodeled with the installation of its roman arched, marble mantlepiece, representative of the mid-nineteenth century and the addition of the frame section.

The building is significant in its successful unification with the frame addition, presenting a single and well-integrated composition, aided by the one story high, open porch, which runs along the west facade of the building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Howard County

Interview with Sandra E. Booth, April 21, 1980 at her residence.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .816 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 24

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 889 Folio 538

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

TITLE SEARCH

HO-559 The William Bryan House

Prepared by Cleora Thompson, AICP

DATE	LIBER FOLIO	GRANTOR	GRANTEE
23 June 78	889 - 538	Margaret German	David Booth
11 Aug 65	440 - 80	Carroll W. Sanner, exec.	A.E. German and wife- confirmatory deed
6 Aug 64	422 - 616	Mary R. Gaither	Albert E. German & Margaret
31 Mar 55	266 - 570	Nancy L. Brian	Mary R. Gaither, unmarried niece of Nancy L. Brian
7 June 1871	31 - 154	Elizabeth Benoy	Mary J. Brian, mother of Nancy Brian

"in consideration of my natural love and affection for my daughter, Mary J. Brian, wife of William Brian and of the sum of one dollar"

"Being part of a tract of land known and called by the name of "Pleasant Fields" 1 acre of land ± "together with the buildings"

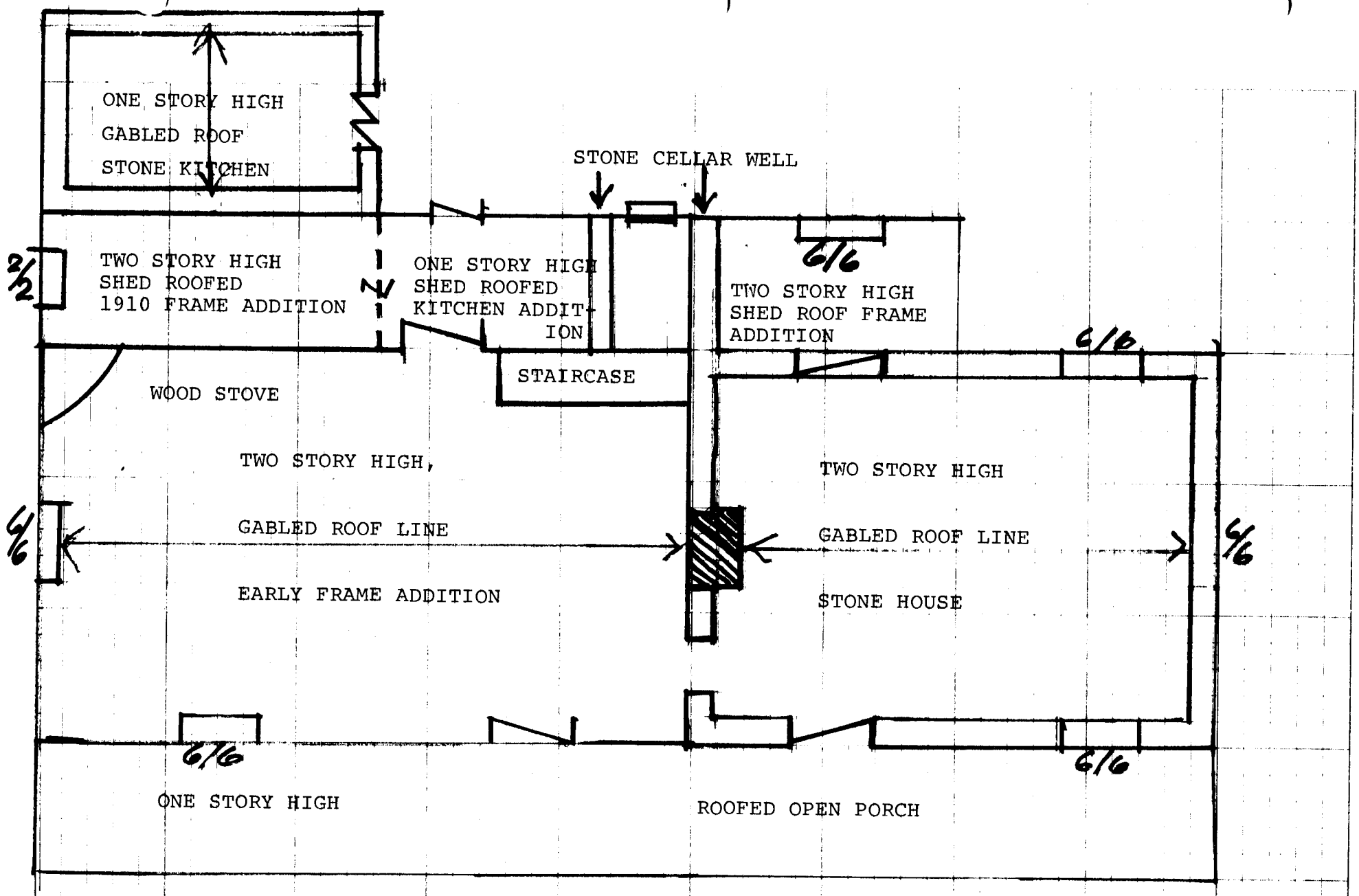
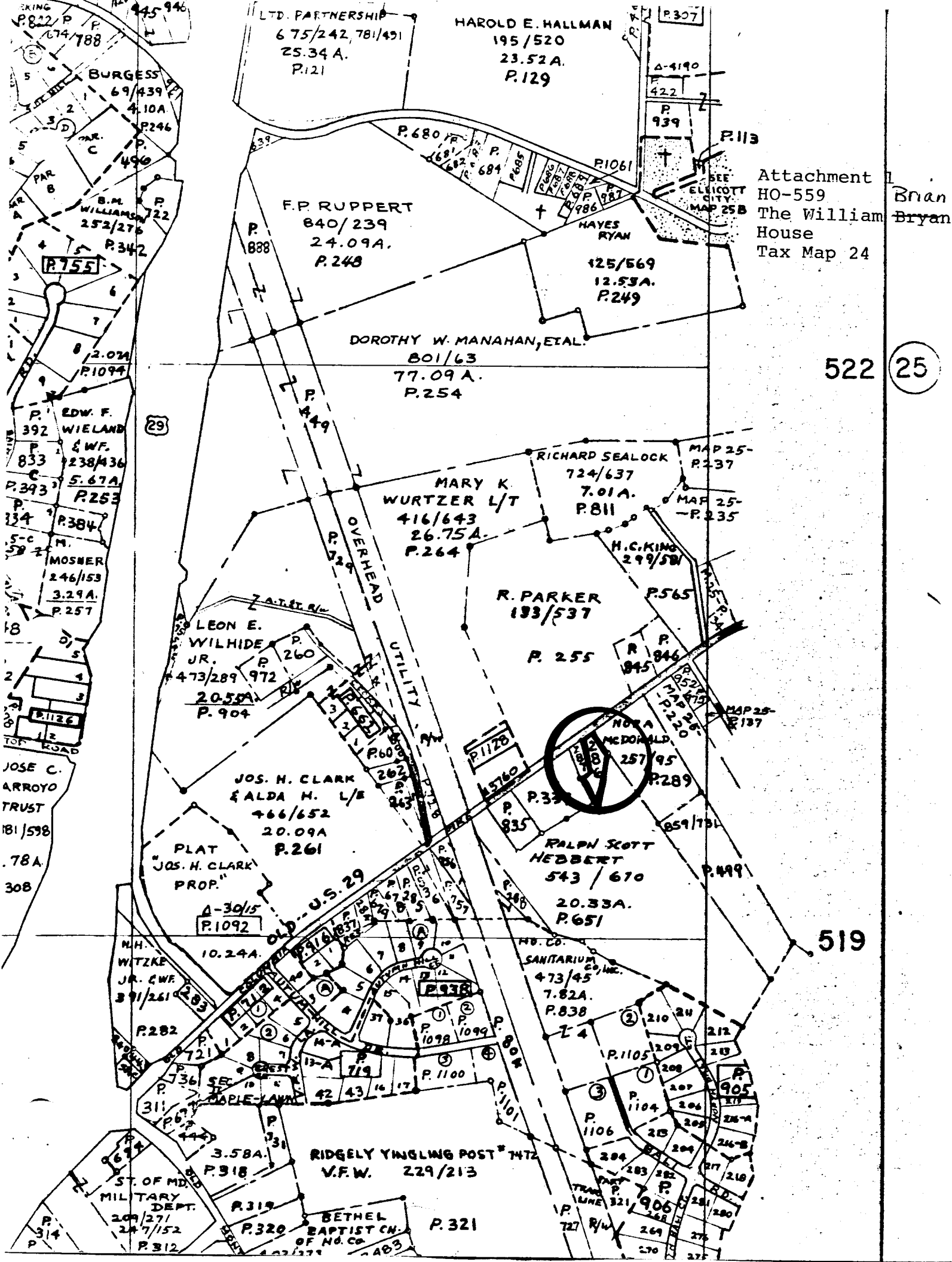
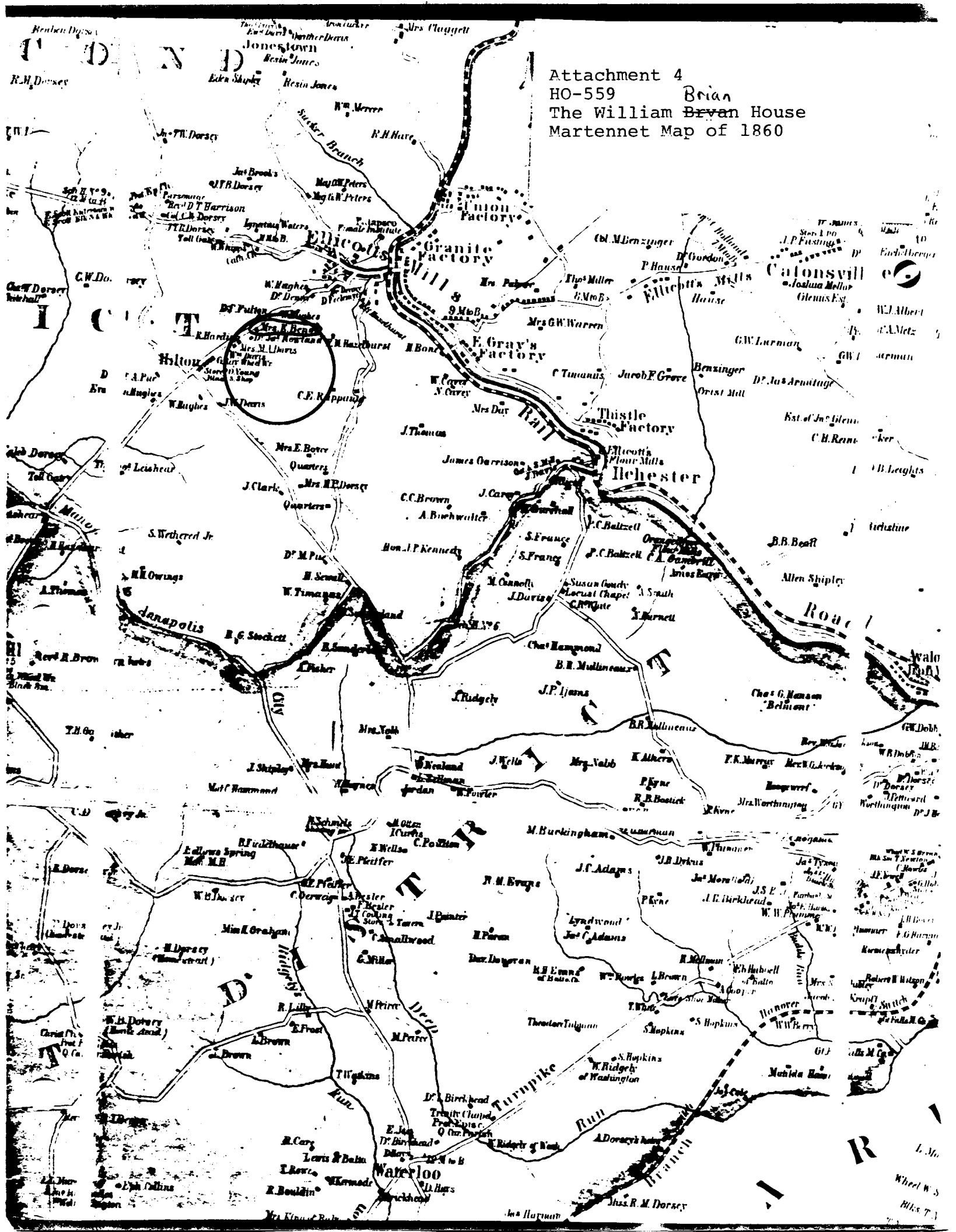


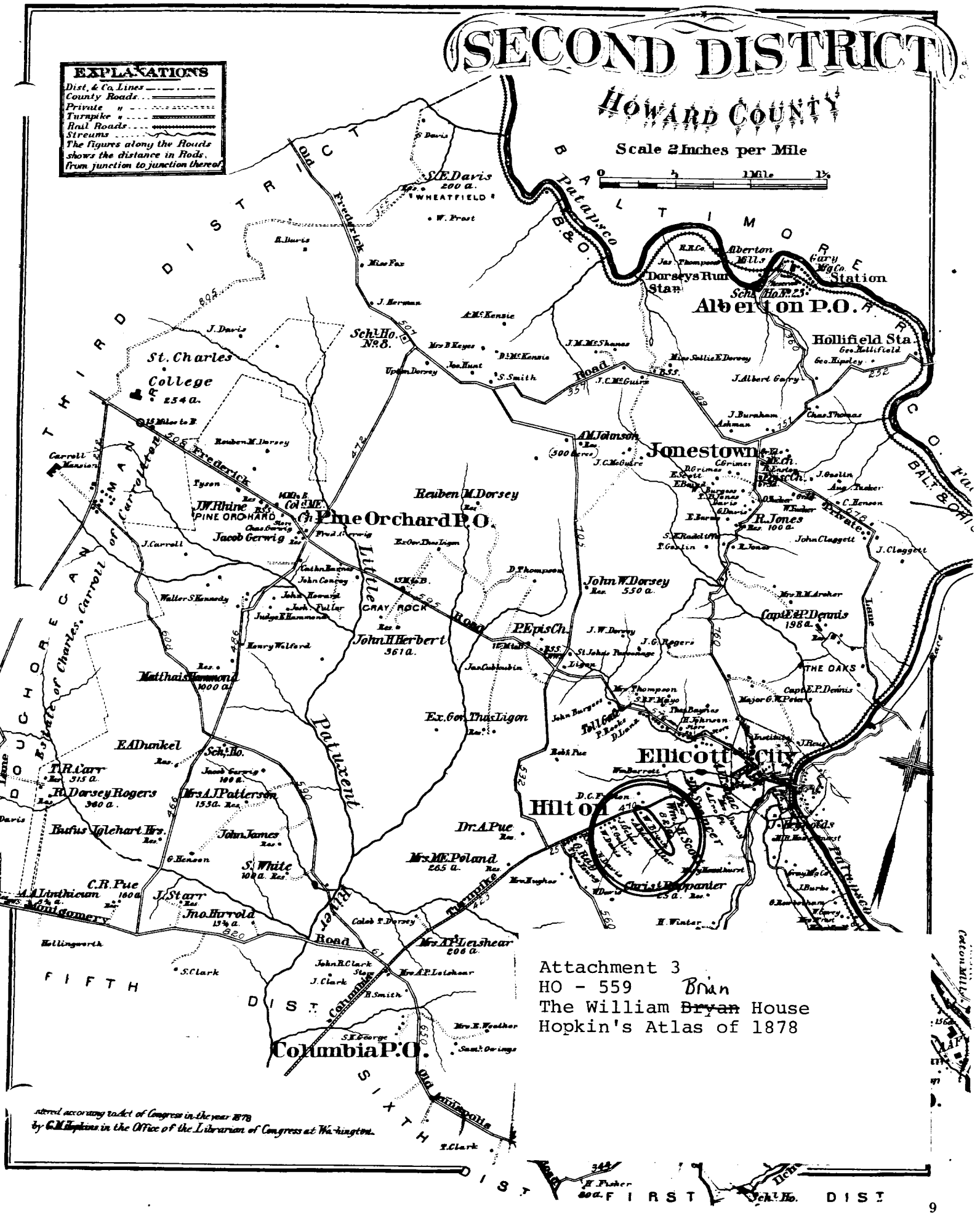
Figure 1
HO - 559
William ~~Bryan~~ Brian House
First Floor Plan

Attachment 1
HO-559
The William ~~Bryan~~ Brian
House
Tax Map 24

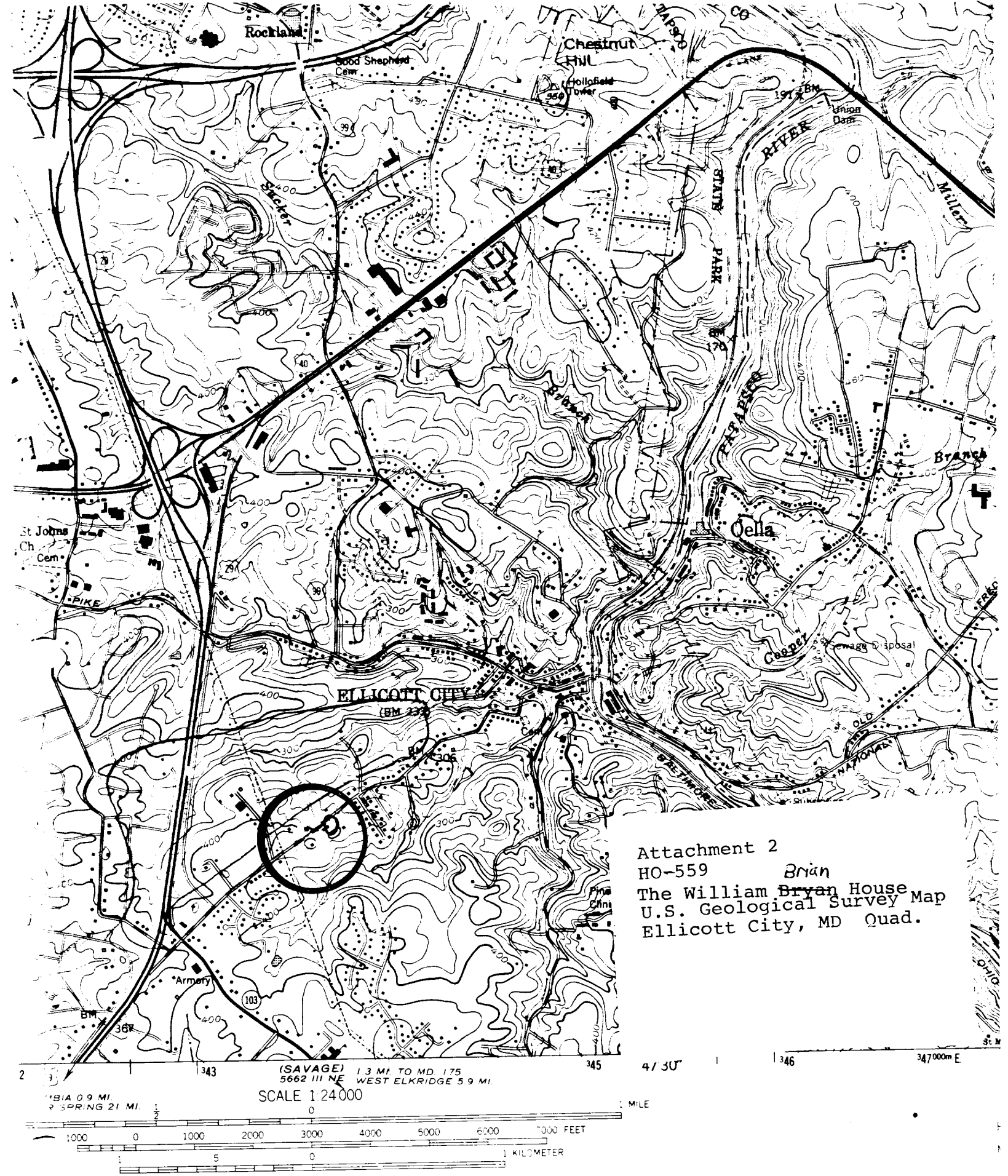


Attachment 4
HO-559 Brian
The William ~~Bryan~~ House
Martennet Map of 1860





Attachment 3
HO - 559 Brian
The William ~~Bryan~~ House
Hopkin's Atlas of 1878



Attachment 2
HO-559
The William ~~Bryan~~ Brian House
U.S. Geological Survey Map
Ellicott City, MD Quad.

Name: HO-559 Brian
The William ~~Bryan~~ House
Location: 3997 Old Columbia Pike
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.
Date of Photograph: April, 1980
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust
View: Southwest
Photographer looking: Northeast
Photograph number: 1 of 1