Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-747

6064 Old Lawyers Hill Road
Elkridge, Howard County, Maryland

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

MHT CONCURRENCE:
~~Individual~~ Eligibility recommended X Individual Eligibility not recommended ____
Criteria: __A __B X C __D Considerations: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G __None
Comments: Eligible as a contributing resource

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date 8/29/00

Date 10/18/00 Reviewer, NR program

MIPH Inventory No. HO-747
Ca. 1900
Maycroft tenant house and detached kitchen
6064 Old Lawyers Hill Road
Elkridge, Howard County, Maryland
Private

The dwelling at 6064 Old Lawyers Hill Road was constructed ca. 1900 as a tenant house for the large Queen Anne style dwelling known as Maycroft located at 6060 Old Lawyers Hill Road. The wood-frame building originally comprised 700 square feet and has been substantially modified during the twentieth century. Outbuildings include a former detached kitchen, a former chicken coop, and a barn constructed in 1999.

The main residence and the detached kitchen are contributing elements to the Lawyers Hill Historic District, a National Register historic district listed in 1993 for its significance under Criteria A and C. The purpose of this project was to evaluate the dwelling and outbuildings at 6064 Old Lawyers Hill Road for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places as part of a noise barrier analysis undertaken by the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration. The dwelling no longer retains sufficient integrity of design, materials, workmanship, or feeling to be individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as representing a ca. 1900 tenant house. The detached kitchen was moved from Maycroft to its current location. In general, moved buildings are not eligible individually for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Criterion Consideration B). The barn constructed in 1999 and the playhouse remodeled from a former chicken coop do not possess sufficient age for National Register consideration.

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Historic Properties Form

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1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Maycroft tenant house and detached kitchen

other 6064 Old Lawyers Hill Road (preferred)

2. Location

street and number 6064 Old Lawyers Hill Road N/A not for publication

city, town Elkridge ___ vicinity

county Howard County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ms. Van Wensil/Mr. Lawrence Strow

street and number 6064 Old Lawyers Hill Road telephone 410-796-1867

city, town Elkridge state MD zip code 21075

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc . Howard County Courthouse tax map and parcel 32, p.

city, town Ellicott City liber 858 folio 607

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

___X___ Contributing Resource in National Register District
_____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
_____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
_____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
_____ Other:_____

6. Classification

Category
_____district
__X__building(s)
_____structure
_____site
_____object

Ownership
_____public
__X__private
_____both

Current Function
_____agriculture
_____commerce/trade
_____defense
__X__domestic
_____education
_____funerary
_____government
_____health care
_____industry
_____landscape
_____recreation/culture
_____religion
_____social
_____transportation
_____work in progress
_____unknown
_____ vacant/not in use
_____other:
_____

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	2	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-747

Condition

_X_ excellent	___ deteriorated
___ good	___ ruins
___ fair	___ altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary

The dwelling at 6064 Old Lawyers Hill Road was constructed ca. 1900 as a tenant house for the large Queen Anne style dwelling known as Maycroft located at 6060 Old Lawyers Hill Road. The wood-frame building originally comprised 700 square feet and has been substantially modified during the twentieth century. The house is set at the end of a long driveway surrounded by mature trees and formal gardens. Outbuildings include a former detached kitchen, a former chicken coop, and a barn constructed in 1999.

Description

The wood-frame, two-story tenant house originally was a rectangular dwelling of simple design. The original foundation was dry wall rubble. A new basement was poured when the addition was constructed on the west end of the house. The owner reports that an original cooking hearth survives in the basement under the house (Van Wensil, personal communication June 2000). The side-gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles and currently exhibits a saltbox profile. The walls of the original house are clad with horizontal boards that were installed during the occupancy of the current owner. Vertical board and batten cladding marks the addition on the western end of the building, as well as the on the east screen porch addition. The windows are wood sash, multi-pane casement windows that replicate the design of the original windows.

The house evolved over several construction campaigns. The original house was most likely one-and-a-half stories with a porch on the north side. During the 1950s, the roof on the south elevation was modified to incorporate a shed dormer into the second floor. This modification resulted in a shallow gable on the south side of the house. The current owners incorporated the back porch into the main body of the house to house a kitchen and a bathroom. The current owners also installed heating and electricity. The addition on the west end of the house was constructed ca. 1990. The interior core of the house retains its original simple moldings and window and door surrounds of a ca. 1900 tenant house.

Outbuildings associated with the house include a one-story, wood-frame studio that originally served as a detached kitchen for Maycroft. This building is clad with wood horizontal drop siding. It has a front-gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. The building features a full-façade porch. The current owners moved the former kitchen to its current location for use as a pottery studio.

Two other outbuildings include the former chicken coop and the barn. The former chicken coop has been remodeled as a playhouse. The building has board and batten siding and wood-frame windows. The entry is a vertical-wood door. The barn was completed in 1999 and is constructed of materials recycled from a house formerly on the "Edgewood" property.

The gardens on the property are the work of the current owners.

Although the residence and detached kitchen at 6064 Old Lawyers Hill Road are contributing buildings in the Lawyers Hill Historic District, the residence no longer retains the design associated with a ca. 1900 tenant house. The dwelling does not retain sufficient integrity of design, materials, workmanship, or feeling to be individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as representing a tenant house. The property does retain integrity of location, setting, and association. The detached kitchen is a moved property, a class of resource generally not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Criterion Consideration B). The chicken coop and the barn are recent renovations and constructions.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philosophy
__ 1800-1899	_X_ architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
_X_ 1900-1999	__ art	__ entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce		__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ ethnic heritage	__ literature	__ social history
	__ community planning	__ exploration/ settlement	__ maritime history	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other: _____

Significance dates ca. 1900, ca. 1950, ca. 1990 **Architect** Unknown

Specific dates **Builder** Unknown

Evaluation for:

___X___ National Register _____Maryland Register _____not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary

The main residence and the detached kitchen, now used as a pottery studio, are contributing elements to the Lawyers Hill Historic District, a National Register historic district listed in 1993 for its significance under Criteria A and C. The historic district was settled as a summer community that was made possible by rail transportation between Elkridge and Baltimore through the construction of the Thomas Viaduct by the B & O Railroad over the Patapsco River in 1835. Railroad access made this area accessible to professionals in Baltimore for development as a community of summer homes. The area initially was settled by George Washington Dobbin, a prominent Baltimore lawyer, in the early 1840s. Dobbin invited colleagues John H.B. Latrobe and Thomas Donaldson, also lawyers, to build summer homes nearby. The enclave was named Lawyers Hill. The community contains a variety of housing types ranging from large Victorian summer houses to twentieth-century single-family houses constructed in Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles.

The purpose of this project was to evaluate the dwelling and outbuildings at 6064 Old Lawyers Hill Road for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places as part of a noise barrier analysis undertaken by the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration. The residence at 6064 Old Lawyers Hill Road no longer retains sufficient integrity of design, materials, workmanship, or feeling to be individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as representing a tenant house. The detached kitchen was moved from Maycroft to its current location. In general, moved buildings are not eligible individually for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Criterion Consideration B). The barn constructed in 1999 and the playhouse remodeled from a former chicken coop do not possess sufficient age for National Register consideration.

Resource History

The residence at 6064 Old Lawyers Hill Road was constructed ca. 1900 as a tenant house for Maycroft (HO-447). Maycroft is a large, wood-frame, Queen Anne Style residence that was constructed ca. 1871 for Susan Dobbin Mayer, a daughter of George Washington Dobbin. Susan Mayer was granted title to the property in 1874. The Howard County tax assessment for 1896-1910 recorded the construction of a tenant house valued at $400 on the property by March 1901 (Howard County Tax Assessment 1896-1910). The Mayer family owned the property until 1907. A full chain of title is included in the documentation.

The tenant house originally was occupied by servants who worked at Maycroft. The current owners have interviewed some of the former occupants, who were primarily African American (Van Wensil, personal communication June 2000). Under the ownership of the Mehrings, the property served as a rental unit. The first owner-occupants of the property are the current owners, who acquired the house in 1977. The house had already undergone changes to the roof design before the current owners purchased the house. The current owners have upgraded the building, enclosed a rear porch, and added an addition on the west end.

The detached kitchen originally was located in the yard at the rear of the main house at 6060 Old Lawyers Hill Road. After it stopped being used as a kitchen, the building was converted into a residence for a retired African American servant. The current owners moved the building to its current location for use as a pottery studio (Van Wensil, personal communication, June 2000).

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic

Known Design Source: Unknown

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Elkridge, Howard County, Maryland

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Chain of Title

Liber/Folio: Date:		Owners:	Acres:
1145/247 Feb. 16, 1983	From: To:	Joe Addison Cobb & Mary Winter Cobb Lawrence L. Strow & Van L. Strow	4 acres, 2 roods, 13 poles
858/607 Dec. 5, 1977	From: To:	John S. Mehring & Ruthe Hall Mehring Lawrence L. Strow & Van L. Strow	4 acres, 2 roods, 13 poles
390/3 Sep. 27, 1962	From: To:	C. Aiken Ames Joe Addison Cobb & Mary Winter Cobb	4 acres, 2 roods, 13 poles
249/162 Oct. 1, 1953	From: To:	Richard N. Atwell and Ethel M. Atwell John S. Mehring and Rhoda C. Mehring	4 acres, 2 roods, 13 poles
176/453 Dec. 10, 1942	From: To:	Louis Hamman Richard N. Atwell and Ethel M. Atwell	4 acres, 2 roods, 13 poles
132/78 Jun. 1, 1927	From: To:	M. Helen Engelhardt Louis Hamman and Mary S. Hamman	4 acres, 2 roods, 13 poles
108/481 Nov. 26, 1919	From: To:	Harry E. Karr and Beulah H. Karr Mary S. Hamman	4 acres, 2 roods, 13 poles
107/374 May 15, 1919	From: To:	Susan B. Whiting and George A. Whiting Louis Hamman and Mary S. Hamman	4 acres, 2 roods, 13 poles
87/358 Jun. 17, 1909	From: To:	Clarence Whiting and wife Susan B. Whiting	4 acres, 2 roods, 13 poles
84/239 Sep. 17, 1907	From: To:	William Surratt Clarence C. Whiting	4 acres, 2 roods, 13 poles
34/268 Jun. 19, 1874	From: To:	Nicholas G. Penniman (trustee), George W. Dobbin and wife Susan D. Mayer	4 acres, 2 roods, 13 poles

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Howard County Deeds, tax assessments

Maycroft (HO-447)

Ca. 1982 Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form.

Wensil, Van
June 2000 Personal communication.

Worden, Amy
1992 Lawyers Hill Historic District National Register Nomination

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area _____
Acreage surveyed 3.6 acres
Quadrangle name Relay Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property boundary is defined by the current parcel boundaries listed on tax map 32 and defined in deeds Liber 858 Folio 607 and Liber 1145 Folio 247.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Katherine Grandine, Architectural Historian, and Richard Vidutis, Historian, Architectural Services

organization R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. date July 2000

street & number 241 E. Fourth Street, Suite 100 telephone 301-694-0428

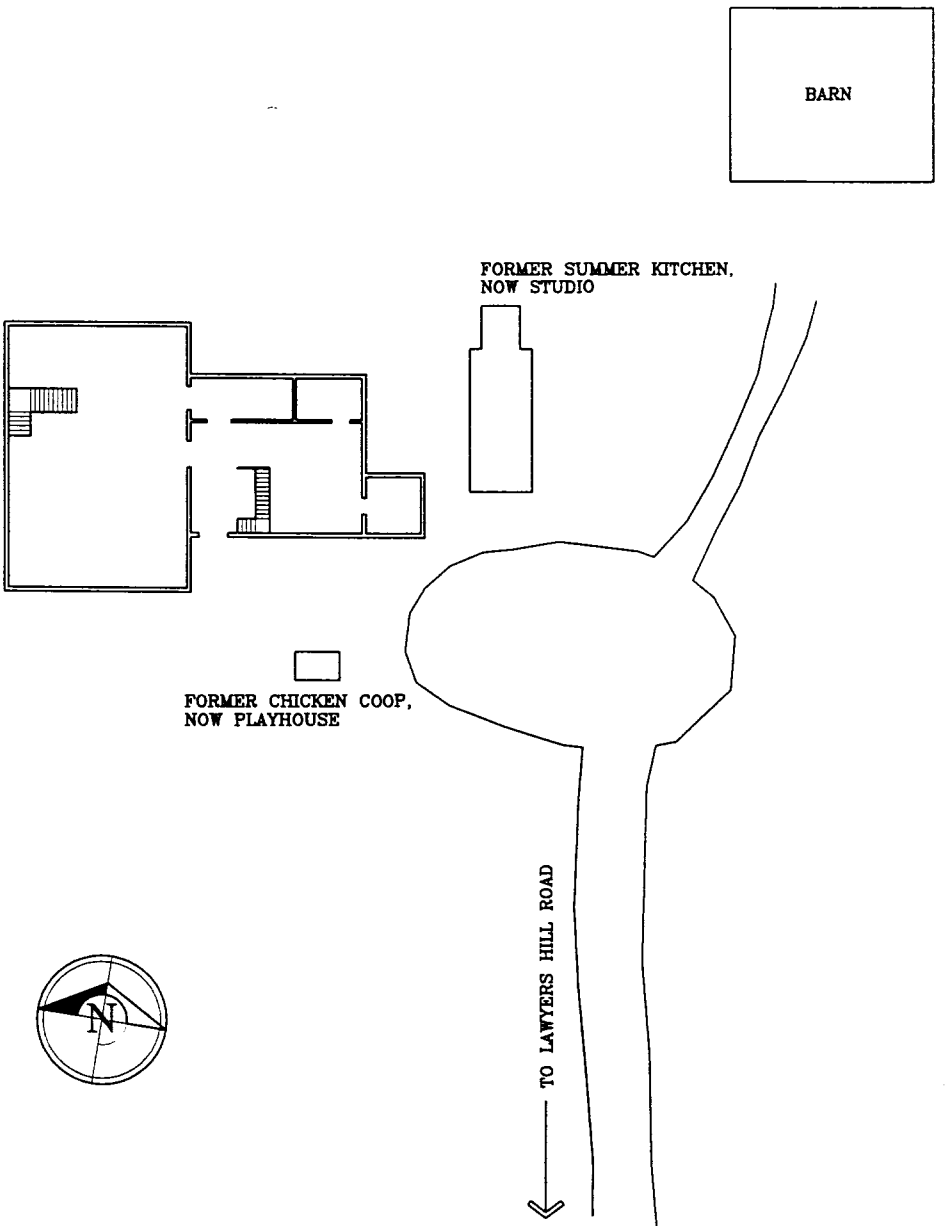
city or town Frederick, Maryland 21701

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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.

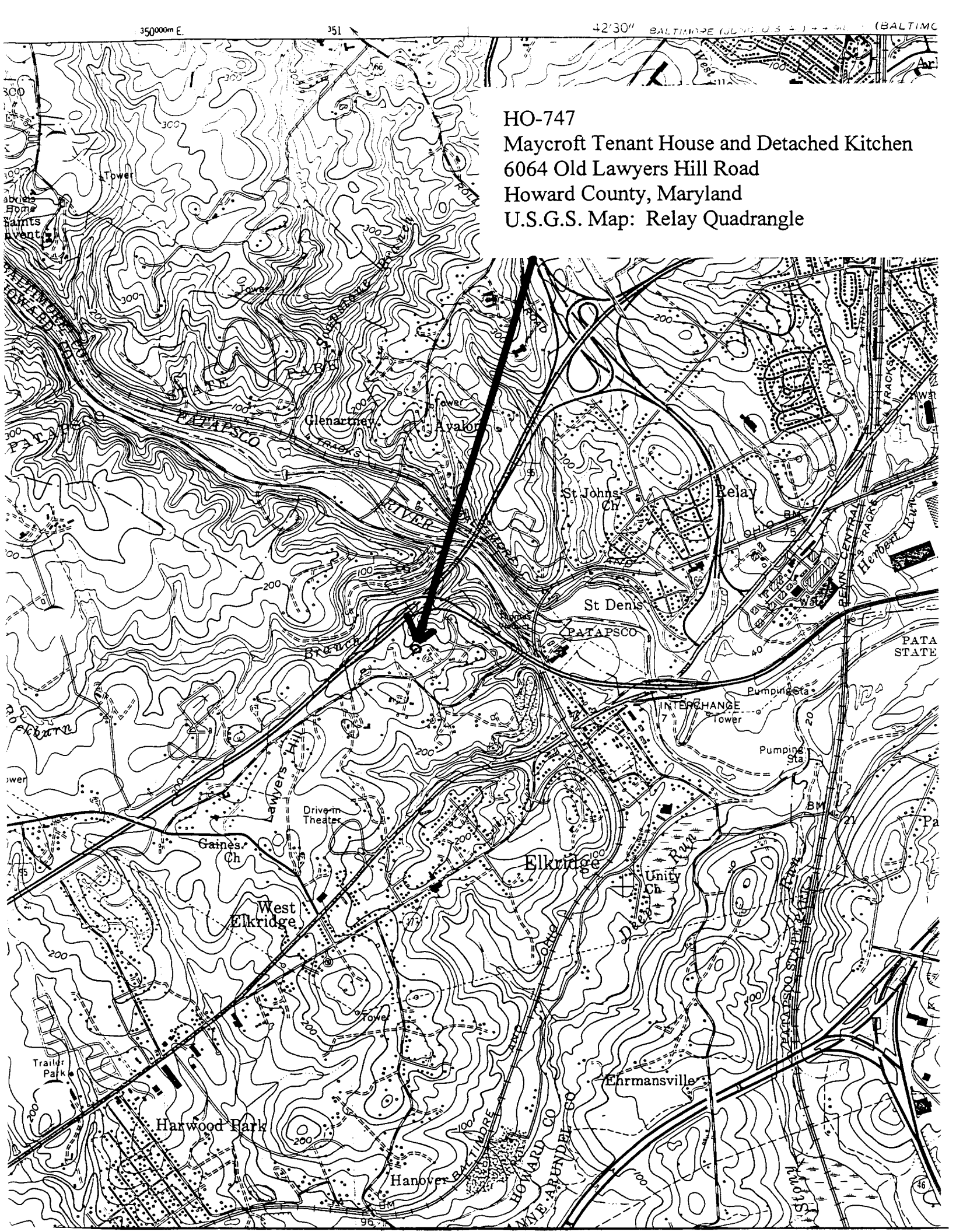
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

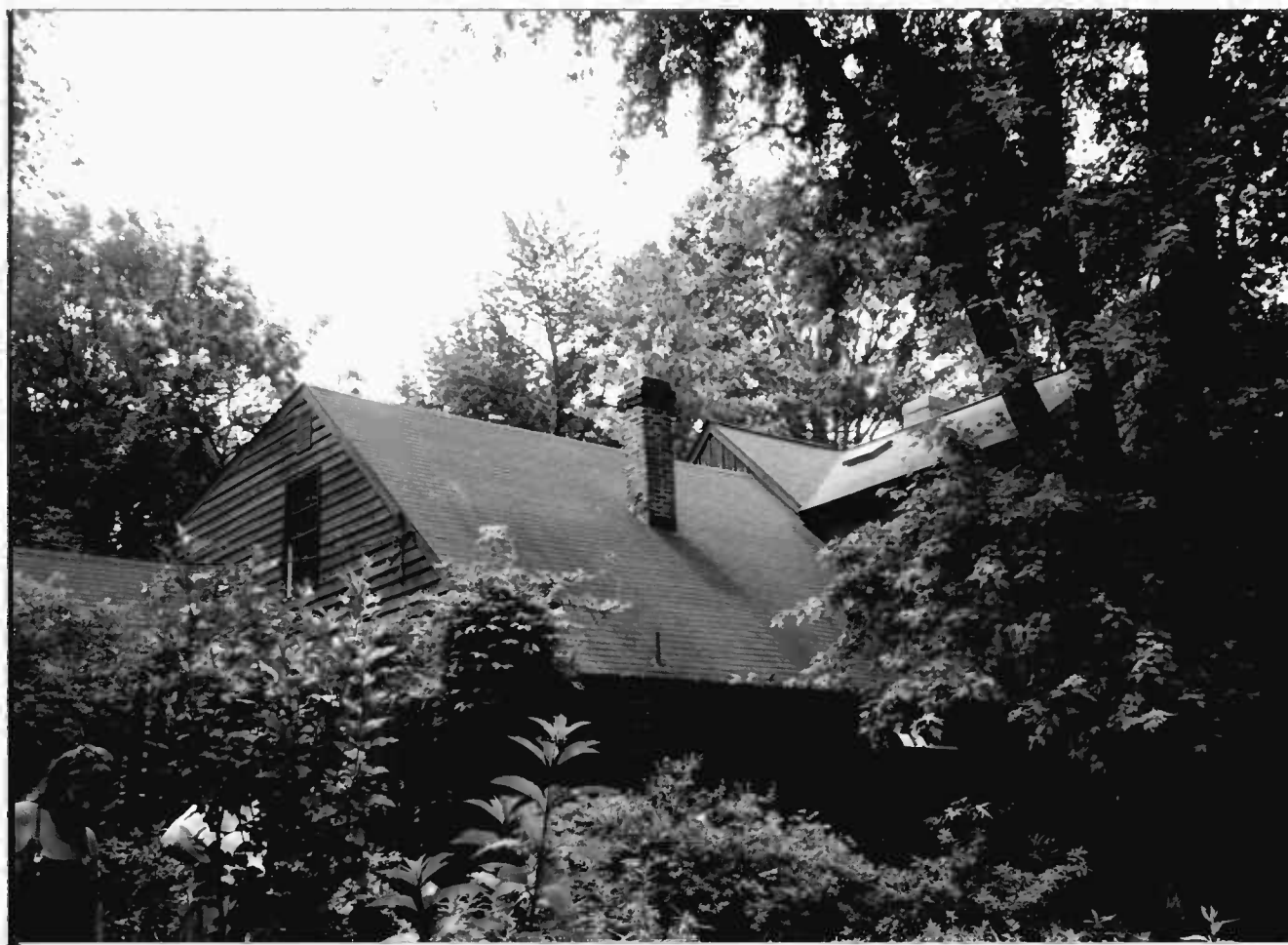
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600

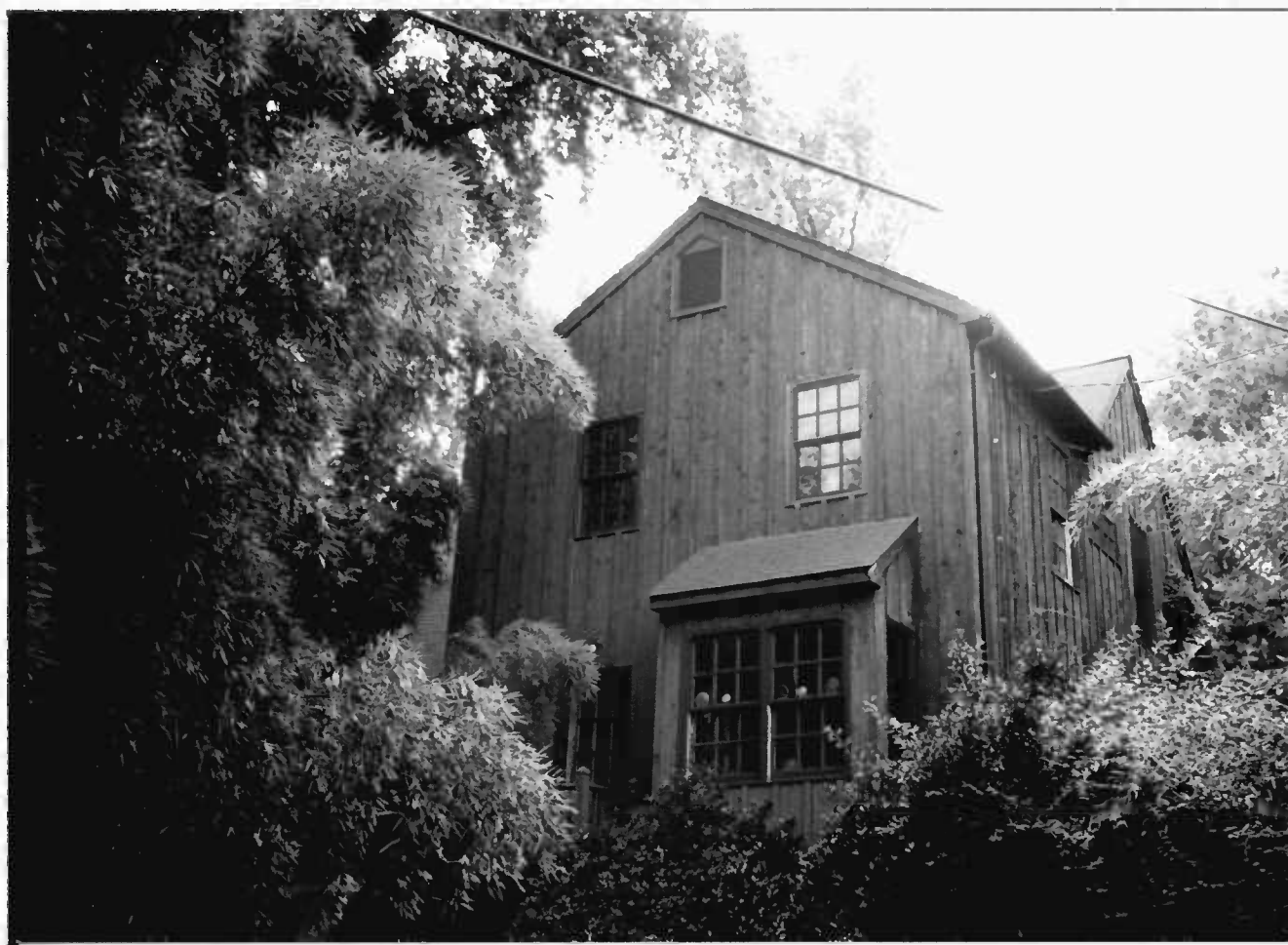
HO-747
MAYCROFT TENANT HOUSE
and DETACHED KITCHEN
6064 OLD LAWYERS HILL ROAD
HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
RESOURCE MAP AND FIRST FLOOR SKETCH PLAN
(Not to Scale)

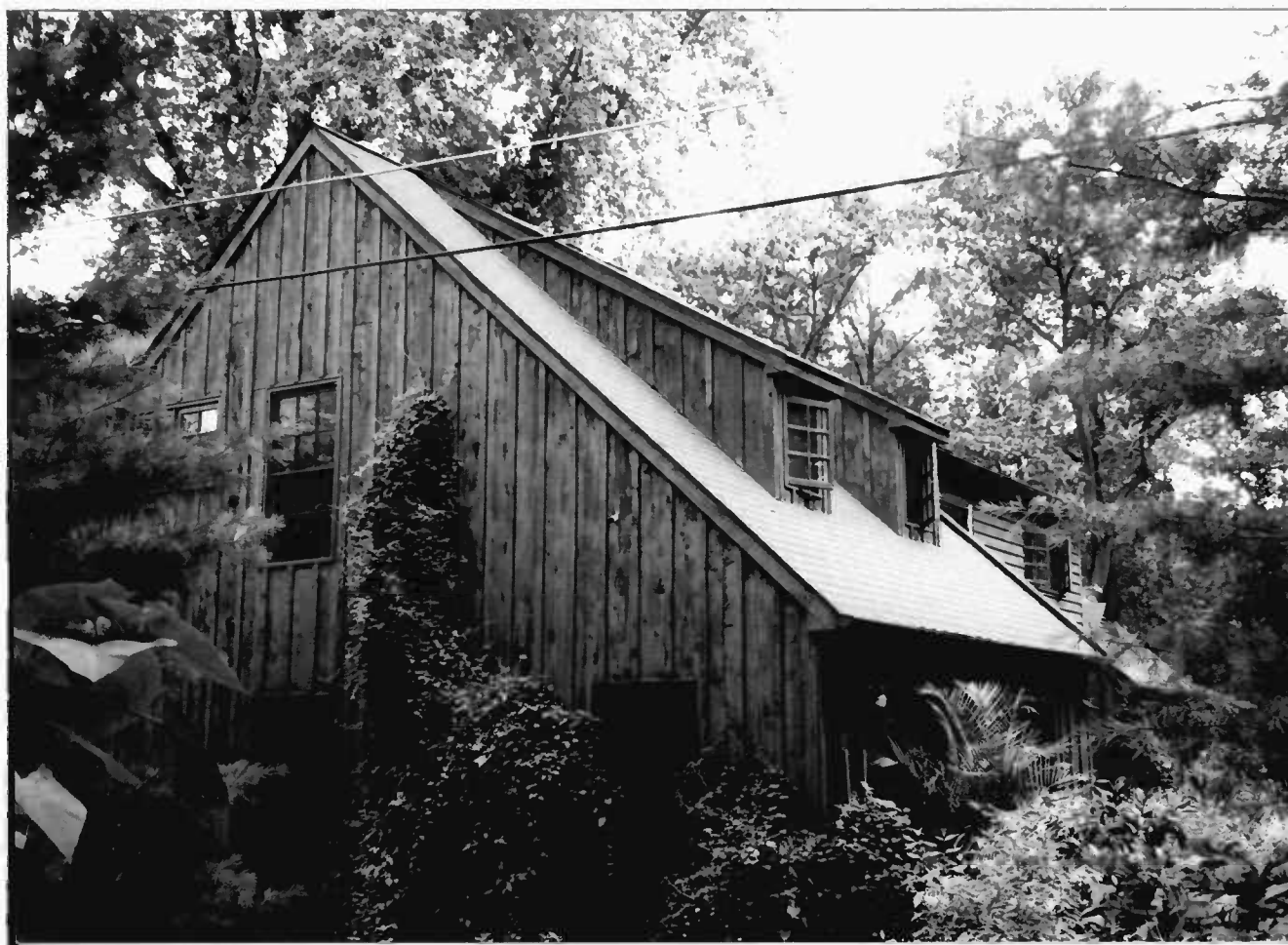
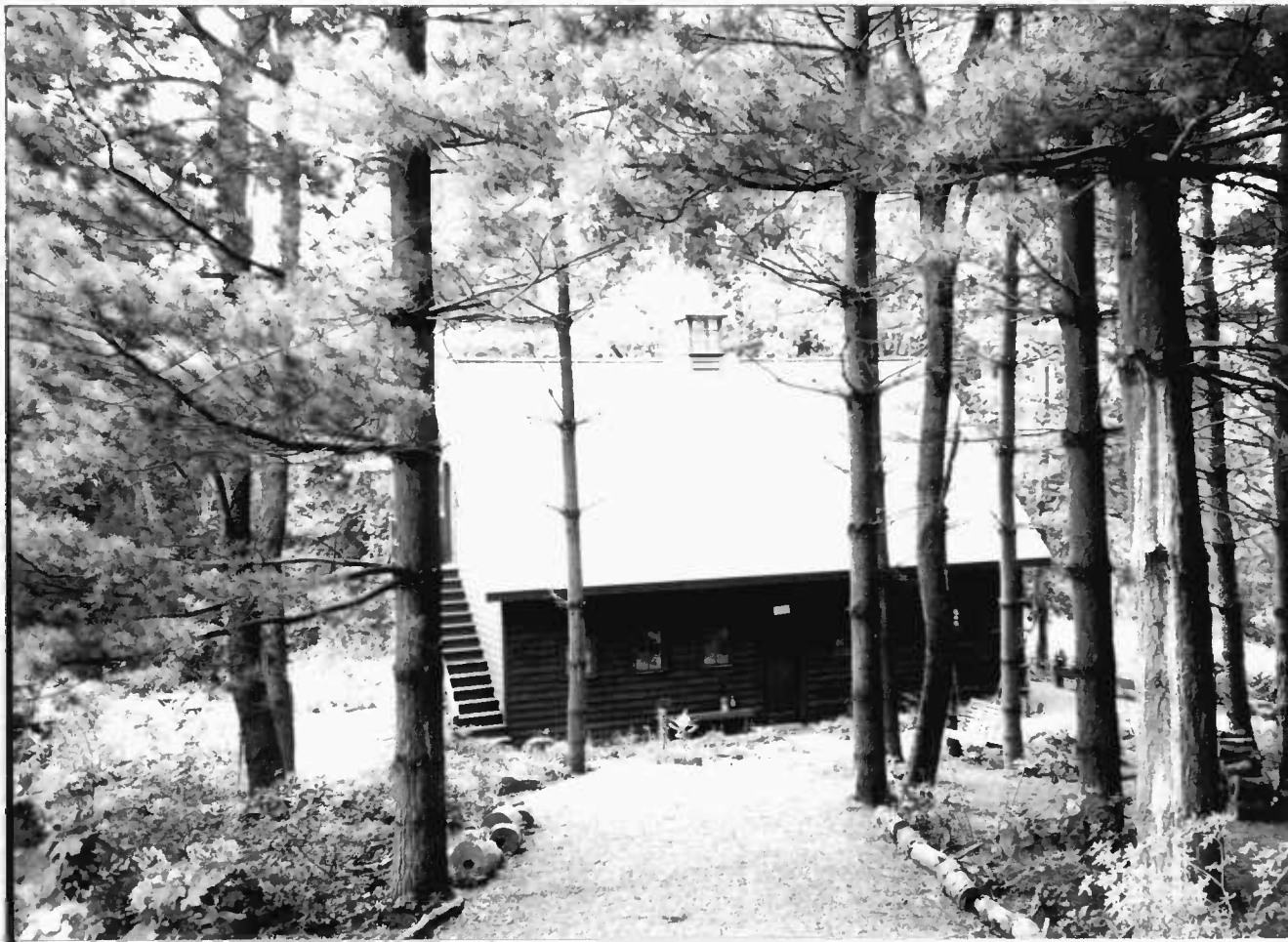


HO-747
Maycroft Tenant House and Detached Kitchen
6064 Old Lawyers Hill Road
Howard County, Maryland
U.S.G.S. Map: Relay Quadrangle





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