

HO-102

Sarah Jane Powell (Dorsey) Log Cabin (Albert E. France Log Cabin)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 05-13-2019

Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-102

Page 1 of 1

Name of Property: Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin/Albert E. France Log Cabin

Location: 2240 Roxbury Mills Road (Maryland Route 97), Cooksville

Described below is some updated information about the Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin since the last Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form was completed in the circa 1970s, and photographs were taken of the exterior from the public right-of-way in April 16, 2004:

3. Owner of the Property

James Louis France
Albert Elroy and Elva France
2240 Route 97
Cooksville, MD 21723-9304

7. Description

Field surveys were conducted of the 2 ½-story Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin on September 6 and 12, 2017 to record changes to the integrity and condition of the resource, a log house with hewn logs using the V-notching system, with chinking and what appears to be cementitious daubing in-between. The property generally seems the same when compared to the last time photographs were taken, in April 16, 2004. The two first-story façade windows, however, have since been covered with plastic sheets. In addition, the wood-framed addition at the rear was clad with vinyl siding sometime after 2004. The October 2012 Google Street View shows these alterations already in place. While the log house retains good to excellent integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, the condition is fair.

The modern gravestones, located south of the log house and photographed in 2004, are still in place and the property's landscaping has not changed since that time. The property is located along Route 97 in rural surroundings, although there are some newer residences. Therefore, the integrity of setting, feeling, and association is good.

Photo Log

Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin/Albert E. France Log Cabin

2240 Roxbury Mills Road (Maryland Route 97)

Cooksville, Howard County, Maryland

Photographer: Jason Shellenhamer

Date: September 13, 2017

#	Digital Image File Name	Description of View
1	HO-0102_2017-09-13_01.tif	View west at the façade
2	HO-0102_2017-09-13_02.tif	View southwest at the north elevation
3	HO-0102_2017-09-13_03.tif	View north at the south elevation
4	HO-0102_2017-09-13_04.tif	View northwest at the property, with the log house in the background and the gravestones in the middle ground

Prints:

Processing – RA-4

Paper – Fujicolor Crystal Archive Professional Paper (Super Type CN)

DVD-R Gold:

Verbatim, UltraLife Gold, Metal Azo dye



HO-102

Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin / Albert E. France Log Cabin

Howard County, MD

Jason Shellenhamer

September 13, 2017

MD SHPO

View west at the facade.

1 of 4



HO-102

Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin / Albert E. France Log Cabin
toward County, MD

Jason Shellenhamer

September 13, 2017

MD SHPO

View southwest at the north elevation.

2 of 4



HO-102

Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin / Albert E. France Log Cabin
Howard County, MD

Jason Shellenhamer

September 13, 2017

MD SHPO

view north at the south elevation.

3 of 4



HO-102

Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin / Albert E. France Log Cabin
Howard County, MD

Jason Shellenhamer

September 13, 2017

MD SHPO

View northwest at the property, with the log house in the background and the gravestones in the middle ground.

4 of 4

Ho-102
Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin
Cooksville
Private

circa 1859

This log cabin faces east on the west side of Route 97 and was built from trees found on the property by the Thomas Hood family for Sarah Jane Powell Dorsey, "late their slave for her unwavering fidelity and general moral worth as a servant."

It is a three bay wide, one room deep, one and a half story high, gabled roof (running north-south) log cabin. Its wide exterior stone chimney rests in the center of its north wall, topped by a tall, square brick chimney.

A one story high, shed roofed, one bay wide, frame addition runs along the entire west elevation.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-102
District 4
MAOI # 1401019904

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin

AND/OR COMMON Albert E. France Log Cabin

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 2240 (Route 97) Roxbury Mills Road

CITY, TOWN Cooksville 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Albert E. France Telephone #: 489-4163

STREET & NUMBER 2240 Route 97

CITY, TOWN Cooksville VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 21723

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Tax Map 14 p.31 Liber #: 136
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records Folio #: 6
 STREET & NUMBER Howard County Court House Land Access: 4900
 CITY, TOWN Ellicott City Building Access: 2250
 STATE Maryland Total Access: 7150

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE 1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN 21 State Circle, Annapolis STATE Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

HO-102
District 4

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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 Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin is located on the west side of Route 97 about one half mile south of the interchange with Route 144. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, one and a half story high, gabled roof (running north-south) log cabin. A wide exterior stone chimney rests in the center of the north wall and is topped by a tall, square brick chimney. This elevation hold no window openings.

The cabin faces east and holds a central battan wood door constructed of planks sawn from Walnut trees on the property. Mount Gregory Methodist Church came off the same land belonging to Thomas Hood of Lisbon. Rectangular, double-hung windows rest on each side of the doorway, that on the north holds six-over-six lights and that on the south holds two-over-two lights. Above rest smaller second floor windows with one-over-one lights.

The south elevation holds only one window, a double-hung attic window with two-over-two lights. A cellar door with a wooden cover is located on this elevation.

Along the entire west elevation lies a one story high, shed roofed, one bay wide, frame addition which holds two rectangular, double-hung windows with six-over-six lights in the west wall, a rectangular entrance in the south wall and a rectangular, double-hung window to the west of a tall, square, brick covered with cement chimney on the north wall. A single small second floor window rests in the north bay of the west wall, holding one-over-two lights.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" 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) Black History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1850 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Thomas Hood

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sarah Jane Powell was set free by Thomas Hood and given this piece of property on which this house was built and given to her around the year 1850. It was constructed of materials found on the property.

Thomas Hood was one of the first three County Commissioners for Howard County in 1851, and owned large tracts of land in the vicinity of Lisbon, Cooksville and Sykesville.

Sarah Jane Powell was born in Lisbon in 1828. Her sisters and brothers were all sold to plantations near New Orleans, Louisiana. She married Alfred Dorsey. They made their home here, raising four sons and two daughters. A notation in an old family bible indicates their son Joseph Dorsey was born here in 1865. Joseph and his two brothers Albert and Tob all settled on adjoining land.

Ella Dorsey, one of the two girls born here in the cabin married George Berry and moved to Baltimore. She was Mr. Albert France's grandmother and lived in a large house on Gilmore Street in Baltimore. She, like her mother had a very pleasant face, and was a loveable, well-settled kind of person. White or colored - all stopped to see her as they did her mother Sarah Jane. Ella and George had four children. He died and Ella remarried and had four more children. Ella and Jennie were sisters. Ella's daughter Sarah Jane Berry was born in Baltimore on May 25, 1893 and married Louis W. France (b. September 6, 1890) on May 18, 1911.

Sarah Jane and Louis France had the following children: Evelyn E. France, April 15, 1911; James Louis France, November 24, 1912; Eva V. France - August 10, 1914; and Albert E. France, January 5, 1917.

These four children made the fourth generation stemming from Sarah Jane Powell Dorsey. Evelyn was the only one to have children and had two daughters Veronica (b. August 8, 1934) and Ramona Johnson Hall. (January 16, 1938) Veronica married Paul Stanton and had one son, Van L. Stanton and one daughter Jan L. Stanton, born on July 15, 1955.(6th generation). Jan Stanton married Larry Marshall on August 24, 1974. They have a daughter born on September 30, 1975, named Yonnette. Yonnette who visited the old log cabin on her mother's birthday makes the seventh generation.

Ramona Johnson Hall had four daughters and two sons. They are Moneves va Duncan Hall, Deborah R. Hall, Jasmine Hall, Shelby Angel Hall, James A.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Hall III and Careous Hall.

Jasamine Hall has a five year old Daughter, Jacinta P. Kelly who also is a seventh generation member of Sarah Jane Powell Dorsey's family.

Sarah Jane Powell Dorsey is buried in Bushy Park's Joshua Cemetery. Her little granddaughter Josephine, is buried in a small graveyard just south of the log cabin. Her tombstone reads:

Born August 16, 1885
Dies October 12, 1886
Age 1 year 1 month and 26 days

Little Fennie was a darling pride of all our hearts at home. I loved her oh perhaps too well for soon she slept and died. How much she suffered there's none can tell but God come and took the sufferer home.

by her mother

The property of this little log cabin is still surrounded by adjoining family members. On its north side is Eugene Dorsey, Sarah Jane Dorsey's grandson; on the west side her granddaughter Katie S. Miles; on the south about 3/10 mile west on Miller's Mill Road live Hallie and Thany Dorsey, daughters of Sarah's son Albert.

Mr. Albert France related that Sarah Jane Powell was set free by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Hood before the 1860's. On the fourth of May in 1869, Sarah Hood, J. Eugene Buck and Josephine Buck, his wife, of Howard County in the state of Maryland deeded the present property to Sarah Jane Powell Dorsey. The deed reads as follows:

. . . Whereas the said Sarah Hood desires to manifest her regard for Sarah Jane Dorsey, colored, late her slave for the unwavering fidelity and general moral worth as a servant and for that purpose has purchased from the above named J. Eugene Buck and paid him for the following described lot of land which she designs as a gift to the said Sarah Jane Dorsey. Now therefore . . . J. Eugene Buck, et al. do grant unto the said Sarah Jane Dorsey and her children in fee simple, all that parcel of land lying in Howard County, aforesaid, on the west side of the Washington Road, called "Poverty Discovered" which is contained within the following metes and bounds . . .

As an example of an early log cabin owned by a freed black woman, this structure has outstanding significance in the black history of Howard County and as such should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Her association with the Hood family, early settlers and leaders of Howard County gives added authority to her home's historic significance.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Howard County, Maryland
Interview with Mr. Albert E. France
July 15, 1977.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.09 Acres

Please see Attachment I
Tax Map 14, p. 31

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the beginning of a conveyance from William A. Williams and others to the late Thomas H. Hood and running thence binding on the first line of the said conveyance north forty four degrees east twenty five and a quarter perches, to the west edge of the aforesaid road and binding thereon, south eight and a quarter degrees west twenty six and a quarter perches, to the given line of

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 465-5000 x257

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

said conveyance and then binding on said line north fifty eight and a half degrees west seventeen and three quarters perches to the beginning, containing one and a quarter acres of land more or less.

~~HO-620~~

~~HO-118~~

~~HO-118~~
~~140118~~

HO-102

Albert France Log Cabin
R+ 97, Coopersville (District 4)

located in field by MOB
7/22/70

* see Wilson's, Maryland's Colonial Mansions

13. LOG CABIN

~~HO-118~~

HO-118

HO-102

Having once been caught in the lenses of Mr. Aubrey Bodine, this old log structure speaks eloquently of its age. It is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert France.

tax Map #14, p. 31

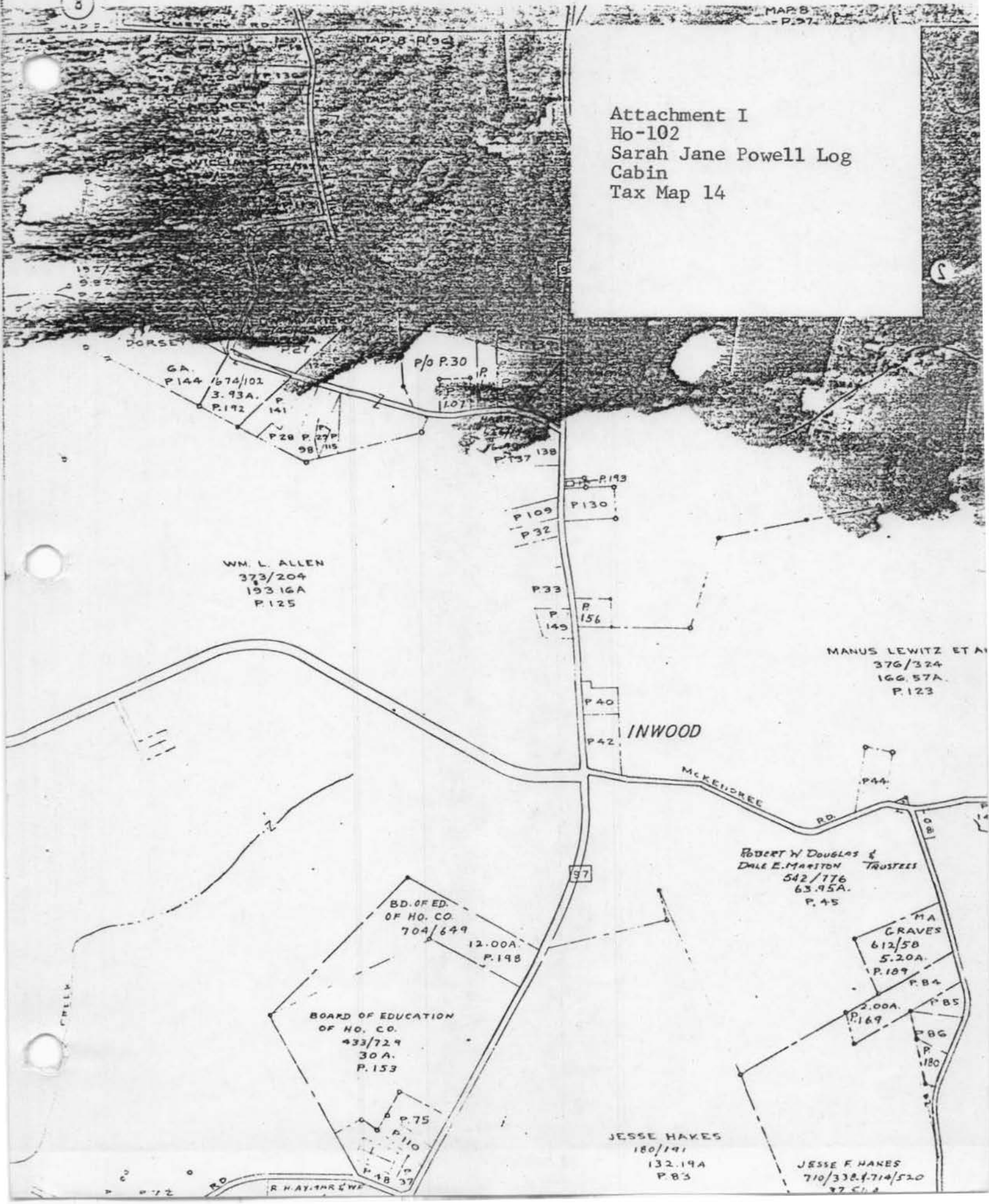
Lewis W. H. France

136/6

1.25 A.

(Add. Page)

Attachment I
 Ho-102
 Sarah Jane Powell Log
 Cabin
 Tax Map 14



GA
 P.144 1674/101
 3.93A.
 P.192

P/O P.30
 1.07

WM. L. ALLEN
 373/204
 193.16A
 P.125

P.109
 P.32
 P.130

P.33
 P.149
 P.156

MANUS LEWITZ ET AL
 376/324
 166.57A
 P.123

INWOOD

MCKENDREE
 RD

ROBERT W. DOUGLAS &
 DALE E. MARSTON TRUSTEES
 542/776
 63.95A.
 P.45

BD. OF ED.
 OF HO. CO.
 704/649
 12.00A.
 P.198

BOARD OF EDUCATION
 OF HO. CO.
 433/72.9
 30A.
 P.153

MA
 GRAVES
 612/58
 5.20A.
 P.189

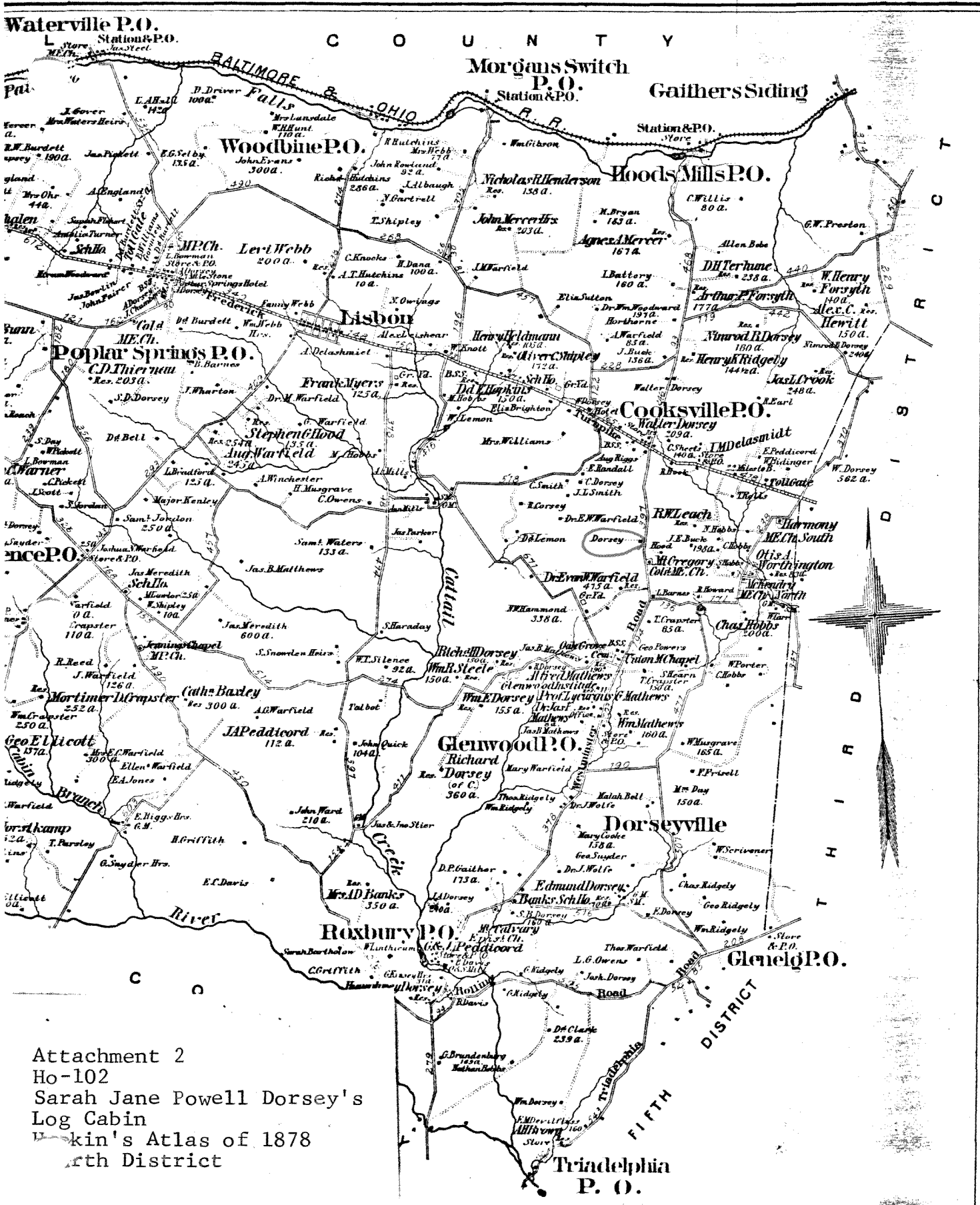
2.00A.
 P.169
 P.84
 P.85
 P.86
 P.180

JESSE HAKES
 180/191
 132.19A
 P.83

JESSE F. HAKES
 710/338.4-714/520
 37.54A

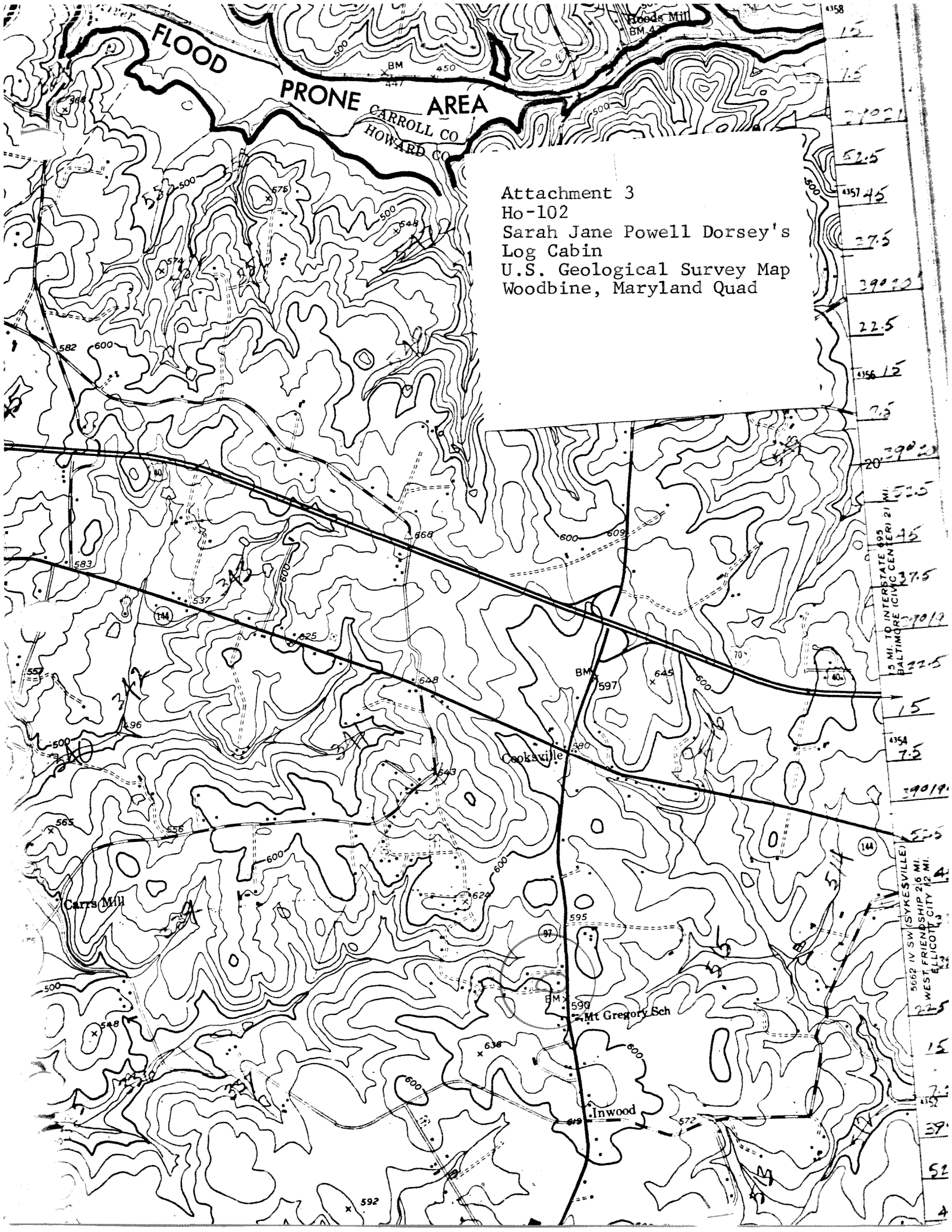
CREEK

R. HAYTHRIVE



Attachment 2
 Ho-102
 Sarah Jane Powell Dorsey's
 Log Cabin
 Linkin's Atlas of 1878
 North District

Map of Congress in the year 1878 by E.M. Hopkins, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.



FLOOD PRONE AREA

CARROLL CO
HOWARD CO

Attachment 3
Ho-102
Sarah Jane Powell Dorsey's
Log Cabin
U.S. Geological Survey Map
Woodbine, Maryland Quad

Cooksville

Carrs Mill

Mt Gregory Sch

Inwood

4358
15
16
29021
52.5
4357 45
27.5
39020
22.5
4356 15
7.5
20-39023
5 MI. TO INTERSTATE 95
BALTIMORE (VICINITY CENTER) 21 MI. 52.5
45
37.5
39019
22.5
15
4354
7.5
39019
52.5
144
5662 IV SW (SYKESVILLE)
WEST FRIENDSHIP 26 MI.
WEST FRIEDRICH CITY 42 MI.
WEST FRIEDRICH CITY 42 MI.
15
7.5
39
52
4

HO-10Z

Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin

Jennifer K. Cosham

April 16, 2004

Digital color photo on file at MHT



H0-102
Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin

Jennifer K. Cosham
April 16, 2004
Digital color photo on file at MHT



H0-102

Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin
(France cemetery)

Jennifer K. Cosham
April 16, 2004
Digital color photo on file at MHT



H0-102
Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin
(France Cemetery)

Jennifer K. Cosham
April 16, 2004
Digital color photo on file at MHT





H0118

H0-102

568A

88c 6/72

Albert France's top cabin



Hc-102
SARAH JANE POWELL LOG
CABIN

NORTHEAST
CB THOMPSON
SEPT 1977