

HO-184

## Old Oakland Manor (Ralston House)

### **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](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

***Last Updated: 05-03-2004***

HO-184  
Old Oakland Manor  
Columbia  
Private

1750

Old Oakland Manor faces west on the east side of Hyla Brook Road, midway between the entrances to The Mending Wall and Pasture Gate Lane.

It is a five bay wide, one room deep, two and a half story high, gabled roof (running north-south) stone (measuring some 50 x 25 feet, featuring stone quoining and flat stone lintels) house, constructed on a stone foundation, with two wide brick chimneys inset into its north and south walls and a two and a half story high, three bay wide, gabled roof, central portico taking up the three central bays of its west facade. The portico is held by four square posts and two half posts and is surmounted by a pediment holding a four-light bull's eye.

Fenestration for the building is vertically aligned. Windows on the west facade are rectangular, double casement windows, holding six-six lights, underlined by wooden sills and surmounted by wide, extended, flat stone lintels. A small basement window, surmounted by a flat stone lintel, is found in the north end bay, vertically aligned to the first and second floor window of this bay.

Four, wide, stone steps lead to the three bay wide, cement landing of the entrance portico, covering the central rectangular, paneled, entrance door, which is flanked by fluted pilasters and surmounted by a flat, wooden lintel, decorated with a pediment. A small, rectangular, second floor, six-light casement window is vertically aligned to this entrance.

The north and south walls are similar, holding only two square, attic, four light, windows, the west bay windows of which are vented. Believed by some local historians to be the original Oakland Manor, this building is now surrounded by the neighborhood of the Birches in the new town of Columbia. Local folklore relates that the building was once used as a garrison for soldiers. This story is very plausible for during the tenure of Colonel George K. Gaither, as master of Oakland Manor, a staunch Confederate, troops were quartered in the area. Colonel Gaither reviewed "Gaither's Troopers" in front of the new manor house, which was constructed in 1827 by Robert Oliver, and which was located southwest of this old building on the opposite side of Governor Warfield Parkway.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-184  
Savage Quad  
District 5  
MAGI #1401845101

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Old Oakland Manor

AND/OR COMMON The Ralston House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 10026 Hyla Brook Road

CITY, TOWN Columbia 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" 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	<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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mrs. Edith M. Ralston Telephone #: 730-6106

STREET & NUMBER 10026 Hyla Brook Road

CITY, TOWN Columbia VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 21044

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE Tax Map 30, p. 215  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

Liber #: 403  
Folio #: 337

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

HO-184  
Savage Quad  
District 5

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		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old Oakland Manor faces west on the east side of Hyla Brook Road, mid-way between the entrances to The Mending Wall and Pasture Gate Lane.

It is a five bay wide, one room deep, two and a half story high, gabled roof (running north-south) stone (measuring some 50 x 25 feet, featuring stone quoining and flat stone lintels) house, constructed on a stone foundation, with two wide brick chimneys inset into its north and south walls and a two and a half story high, three bay wide, gabled roof, central portico taking up the three central bays of its west facade. The portico is held by four square posts and two half posts and is surmounted by a pediment holding a four-light bull's eye.

#### THE WEST ELEVATION

Fenestration for the building is vertically aligned. Windows on the west facade are rectangular, double casement windows, holding six-six lights, underlined by wooden sills and surmounted by wide, extended, flat stone lintels. A small basement window, surmounted by a flat stone lintel, is found in the north end bay, vertically aligned to the first and second floor window of this bay.

Four, wide, stone steps lead to the three bay wide, cement landing of the entrance portico, covering the central rectangular, paneled, entrance door, which is flanked by fluted pilasters and surmounted by a flat, wooden lintel, decorated with a pediment. A small, rectangular, second floor, six-light casement window is vertically aligned to this entrance.

#### THE NORTH AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS

The north and south walls are similar, holding only two square, attic, four light, windows, the west bay windows of which are vented.

#### THE EAST ELEVATION

The east elevation is similar to the west elevation, holding two north and south bay, double casement, six-six light windows, underlined by projecting flat wooden sills and surmounted by flat stone lintels on each side of a central rectangular, entrance door. The central bay holds a smaller, four light, rectangular, square, second floor window, surmounted by a flat stone lintel.

The interior features a central hall of some seven feet in width, with a large, first and second floor, twenty feet by twenty feet room, originally placed on each side of the hall, but now partitioned. Only the attic staircase is original to the building, which was gutted sometime prior to 1950 when it was restored by Mr. and Mrs. Reich in 1952. At that time, a new roof was put on the building and the building completely

restored as we see it today.

This large stone building was surrounded by its dependencies. A stone slave quarters lies only six inches north of the building's north wall and was connected to the main house by an underground passage. Northwest of the stone slave quarters lies the old blacksmith shop, now used as a private residence. Directly west of the mainhouse and facing Wilde Lake is the old sheep barn for the property, now used as a boat house for the Wilde Lake boat dock on which it is now located. Southwest of the house and now located within the Wilde Lake Park, which runs around Wilde Lake, is the old, hipped roof, Stone Spring House for the property, which, as late as 1952, furnished water for the three houses here.

A large barn lies due north of the cluster of houses, facing Wilde Lake and not far from the Boat Dock.

The buildings are all in a good state of repair. The blacksmith shop and slave quarters are individually owned, while the two barns and spring house are located within the Wilde Lake Park area.

Old Oakland Manor is now surrounded on the east, north and south by the neighborhood of the Birches, characterized by single family, detached dwelling units and on the west it is bordered by Hyla Brook Road and Wilde Lake and its park area.

Since the interior of the building was completely restored in 1952, much of the interior has been altered. The building, however, features its original attic staircase and four fireplaces, two of which are uncovered. The tiles in one of these fireplaces cracked so that in repairing the tile and taking out some six tiles in the fireplace to do so, an old cement slab was uncovered with the date 2 June 1750.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

HO-184  
Savage Quad  
District 5

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES                      1750                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Oakland Manor House is significant to Howard County and the State of Maryland architecturally as a fine example of a mid-eighteenth century fieldstone house, which was completely restored in 1952. Little remains of the manor but the attic staircase and the original fireplaces, one of which contains a cement slab with the date 1750. Covered by fireplace tiles, it was discovered when these tiles had to be removed for repair. Several other things point to the strong possibility that this was the Old Oakland Manor House. 1. The use of fieldstone points to the period in which the Old Manor House was constructed. Later, the ashlar granite block construction we find in the 1840's was used for a building of this dimension. 2. The dimensions of the building are significant, 25'x 50', for most of the early stone buildings were of more modest proportions. The manor would have been constructed on a larger scale than the smaller stone buildings, which dot the Howard County landscape. 3. The placement and size of the window openings are of interest. Although vertically aligned, they are not proportionally scaled as we find later. In addition, the smaller openings seem to suggest the use of casement windows, which in Virginia and New England were used very early. 4. No stone sills. By 1840, most stone buildings featured projecting stone sills. 5. Numerous bits and pieces of early pottery and china have been found on the site and have been collected by the present owners.

Historically, Oakland Manor is significant for its association with the Dorseys. It stands on a tract of land called "Dorsey's Adventure", a survey of 1688 by the Honorable John Dorsey. John willed this survey to his grandson, Edward Dorsey. Oakland Manor, should the date of 1750 inscribed on the fireplace stone be correct, must have been constructed by a Dorsey, for local historians relate that in 1785, Colonel John Dorsey sold the property to Luther Martin, Attorney General of Maryland.

In 1827, the property was sold to Robert Oliver, an Englishman who increased the estate. In 1838, George R. Gaither of Baltimore bought "Oakland Manor". It was his son, Colonel George Riggs Gaither, who organized "Gaither's Troopers", which later became a unit of the Confederate Army. During this time, it is believed that the old stone manor house was used to quarter these troops.

Enfolded in folklore with some evidence which would point to its early construction, the Old Oakland Manor is significant to both Howard County and the State of Maryland as a fine example of early stone architecture with a high probability factor of being the early "Oakland Manor" house, constructed here by the Dorsey family.

As an example of early stone architecture, constructed on a larger scale than other stone houses in Howard County, Old Oakland Manor should be considered for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places, the State Critical Areas Program and any local landmark ordinance the citizens of Howard County may seek to initiate, should its owners so desire.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Howard County Land Records  
Interview with Mrs. Edith Martin Ralston on February 27, 1980

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.00 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 30

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 403 Folio 337

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-184 OLD OAKLAND MANOR

prepared by Cleora Thompson, A.I.C.P.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LIBER</u>	<u>FOLIO</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u># ACRES</u>
2/7/63	403	337	Miriam J. Keller	George Ralston and Edith Martin	1.00 a.
4/8/49	MWB 212	161	Mercantile Trust Company of Baltimore, executor of last will and testament of Milton W. Bosley Wills No. 10-Folio 106  "Whereas the . . . Executor . . did on April 29, 1949 sell said land unto Walter J. McCauley . . for . . . \$72,000. . . . "Whereas . . . Miriam J. Keller has been substituted as purchaser . . .  ". . . all those pieces or parcels of land comprising the farm com- monly known as "Oakland Manor" . .	Miriam J. Keller, widow	379.6 a.
15/10/48	MWB206	366	James D. Brown and Bertha M.	Milton W. Bosley	379.6 a.
5/10/48	MWB206	363	Alpheus H. Ryan and Betty	James D. Brown and Bertha, his wife	379.6 a.
21/11/34	BWJr.150	258	Richard D. Biggs, Trustee of Baltimore City	Alpheus H. Ryan	379.6 a. \$15,000 (Private sale)
22/5/95	ACR65	451	Evelina M. Bailliere & Frederick H. Bailliere	Katherine V. Tabb	1st 350 acres 2 roads, 9 sa perches firstly and thirdly described

Title Search - HO-184 Old Oakland Manor - cont'd.

29/4/74	LJW33	516	Philip Tab firstly described	Francis Morris	
28/1/26	HBN126	87	R. Bennett Darnall, atty.  "at a public sale made January 20, 1925 by said R. Bennett Darnall in pur- suance of the power . . . vested in him . . . by a certain mortgage from John C. Stafford and wife to Sarah A. McDevitt et al . . .	Garnett Y. Clark & Robert Biggs	350 a. ± 2 roads & sq perches firstly and thirdly des- cribed
26/9/23	HBN 119	155	John C. Stafford	Sarah A. McDevitt	350 A 2 rood 9 sq perch
26/9/23	HBN119	152	R. Bennett Darnall	John C. Stafford	350 A 2 rood 9 sq perch \$23,500
6/6/21	HBN112	547	John V.L. Findlay and Corine Hart Findlay	Sarah A. McDevitt Annie E. McDevitt Katherine E. McDevitt Eugenia Brown of Baltimore City	350 A 2 rood 9 perch \$20,000 mort
3/7/06	WWLC82	283	Katherine V. Lee and Frank M. Lee	John V.L. and Corine Hart Findlay of Baltimore City	350 A. 2 roads 9 perches
22/5/96	ACR65	451	Evelina Baillier and Frederick H. Bailliere  "whereas the said Katherine V.Tabb departed this life on or about the 30th day of May 1889 . . . leaving . . . her husband Philip Tap and two children . . . Evelina M. Bailliere and Katherine V. Tabb . . . subject to . . . life estate in . . . Philip Tabb."	Katherine V. Tabb, now Katherine V. Lee	350 A 2 rood 9 perches

Title Search - HO-184 Old Oakland Manor - cont'd

29/11/89	JH055	258	Philip Tab	Evelina M. Bailliere Katherine V. Tabb	350 A 2 roods 9 perches
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"being all the former estate  
and residence of Francis Morris  
formerly of said "Oaklands" . .  
being the same premises devised  
in and by the last will and  
testament of said Francis Morris  
to Kate V. Tabb now deceased  
lately . . . .

H0-134

1401347984

# Ralston House

Brook Road

Columbia

2-story stone house - 5 bays long  
with 2-story portico -  
solid stone lintels above windows -  
with 1-story wing +  
outbdg apparently a house too  
in midst of development -

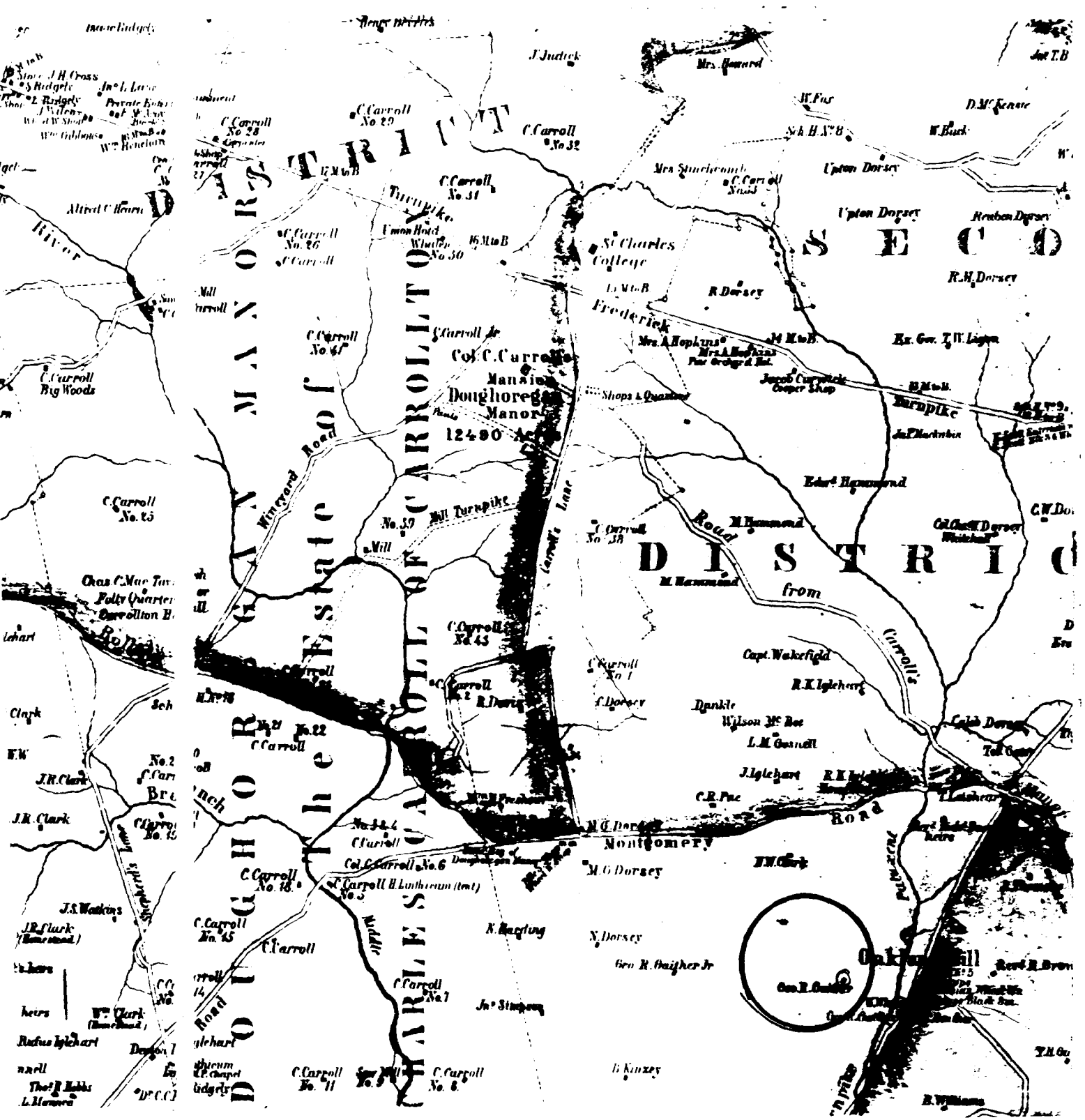
located in field by M.O.S. 7/20/20

Map # 30 , p. 215

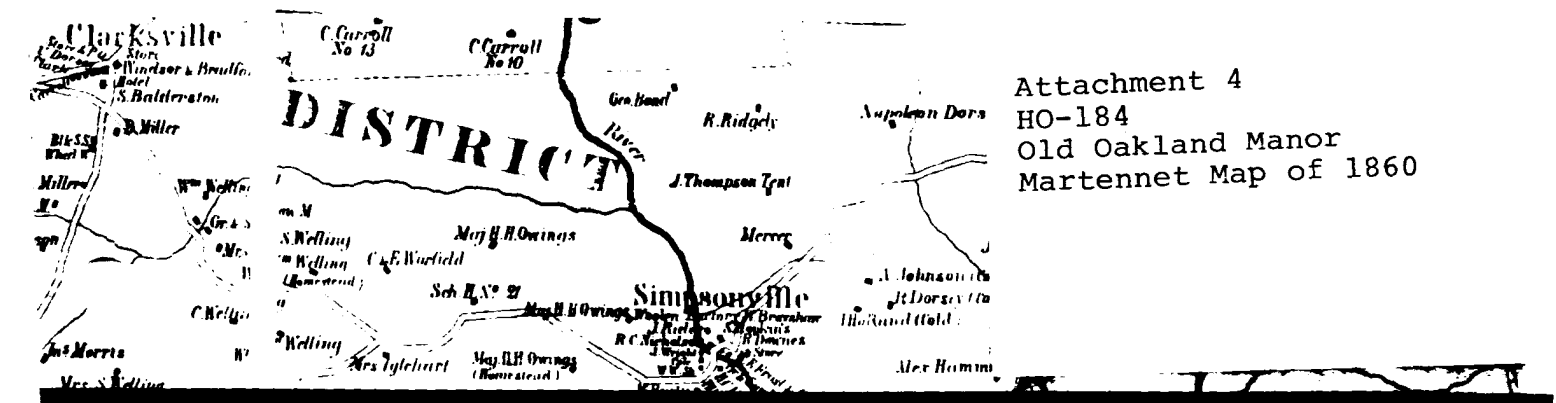
George Ralston - w.f.

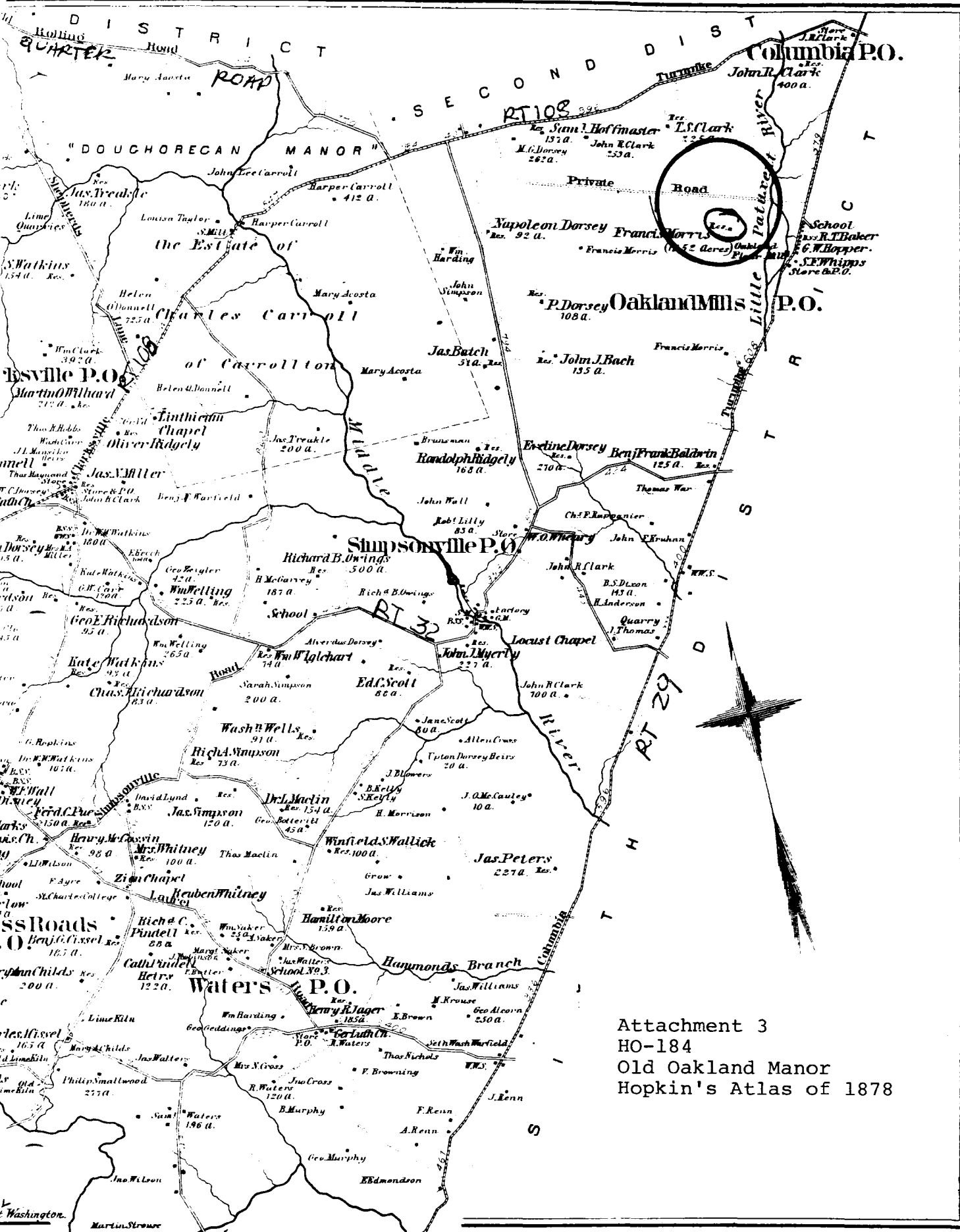
A 03/337

1.00 A.



Attachment 4  
 HO-184  
 Old Oakland Manor  
 Martennet Map of 1860





Attachment 3  
 HO-184  
 Old Oakland Manor  
 Hopkin's Atlas of 1878



39°15'

2.3 MI. TO U.S. 40

41

42

2.2 MI. TO

4345000m N.

HIGHLAND 6.6 MI.  
ELICOK 0.7 MI.

4343

HQ-184

Old Oakland Manor (Ralston House)

Savage Quad, 1957, PR 1966

Oakland Mills

Columbia

Maple Grove Ch

Red

Plumtree Br

HKI

HQ-184

Potusent

Little

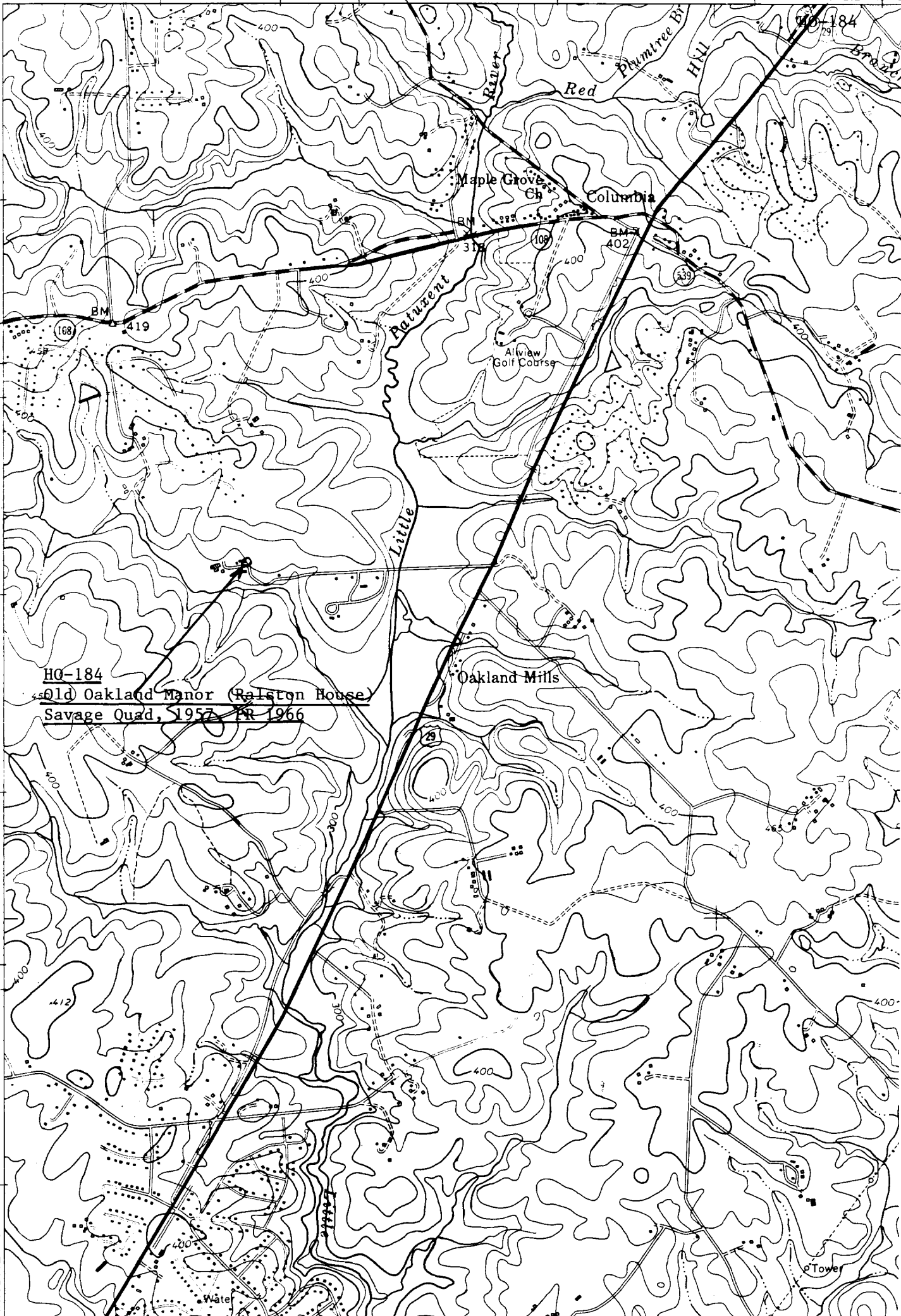
Allview Golf Course

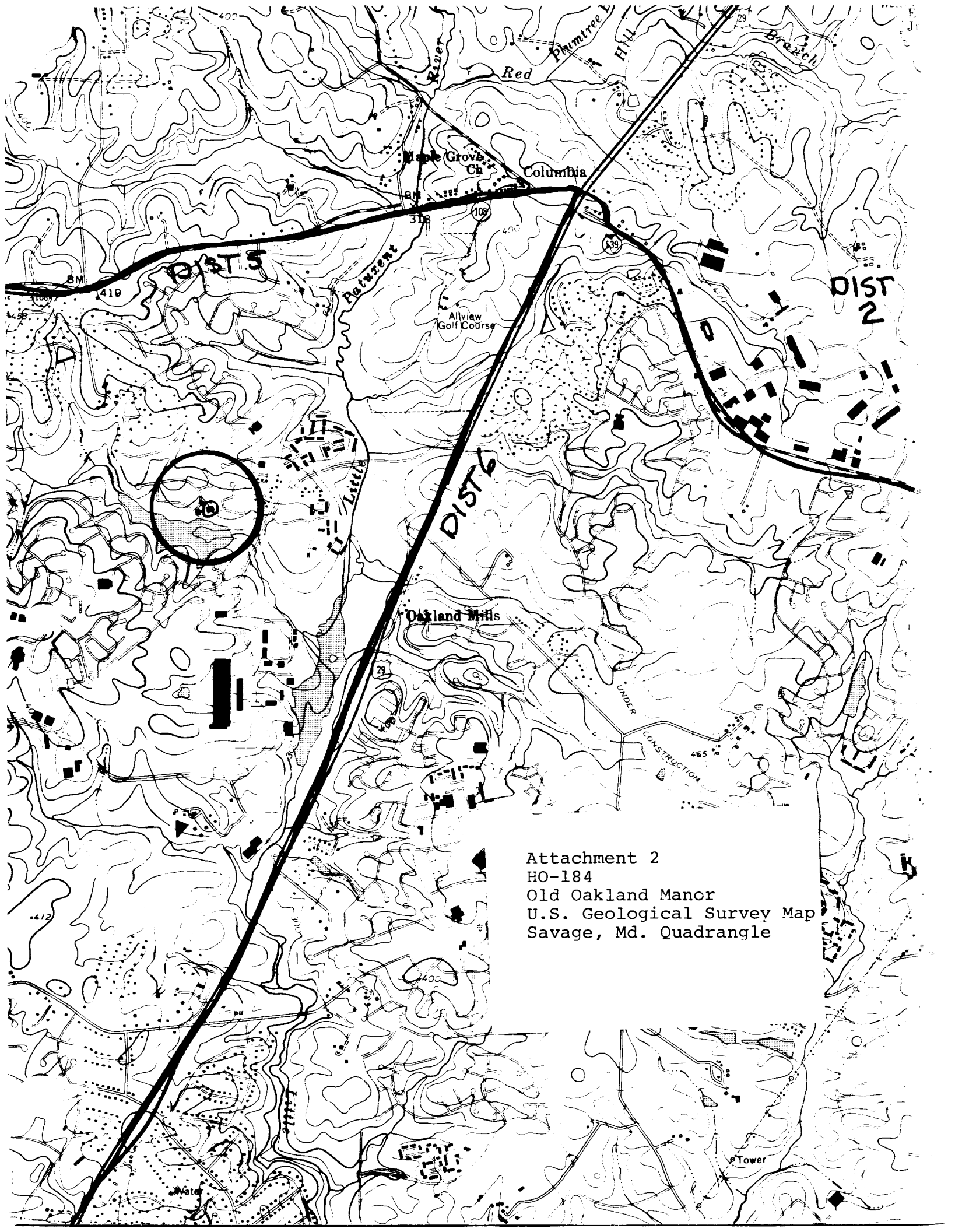
12'30"

4341

4340

5662 III NW  
ARKSVILLE

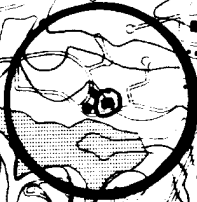




DIST 5

DIST 2

DIST 6



Attachment 2  
HO-184  
Old Oakland Manor  
U.S. Geological Survey Map  
Savage, Md. Quadrangle

Tower

Water

Oakland Mills

Columbia

Maple Grove Ch

Allview Golf Course

Patuxent

Red

Paumotu Hill

Branch

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

400

419

400

29

465

412

315

315

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HO 184

9310

Balston house JSE Apr 72



HO-184

9310

Ralston Barn      SE Apr 72



Name: HO-184  
Location: The Old Oakland Manor  
10026 Hyla Brook Road  
Columbia, Maryland 21044  
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.  
Date of Photograph: February, 1980  
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust  
View: Southwest  
Photographer looking: Northeast  
Photograph number: 1 of 1