

HO-398

Bon Air Manor (Benson's Park)

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.

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Last Updated: 05-03-2004

HO-398
BON AIR MANOR
Ellicott City
Private

early and middle nineteenth century

Bon Air Manor was originally known as Benson's Park comprising 250 acres which was patented in 1696 by Daniel Benson. In 1846 Mr. Theodore R.S. Boyce deeded the property to Eliza Boyce.

Reminiscent of The Oaks, HO-243, it too has a tall square granite tower. This one is three stories high, Romanesque, tent roofed and adjoining a two story high, three bay wide, three bay deep hipped roof, ashlar grey granite proportionally scaled structure.

The west side of the south wall projects southward one bay in length, whose jerkinhead roof intersects with the main body of the house. A one story high, flat roofed, frame addition springs from the east side of this wall with a wide brick exterior chimney on its west wall.

On June 1, 1871, Georgia Haight conveyed land to Henry Winter, who is reputed to have built the manor house at that time. Slave quarters on the property date from 1805.

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent * | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncoltered * | | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site* | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bon Air

The Fearing house is located at the east end of Stonecrest Drive which is the development of Stone Crest on the east side of Rt. 103, Old Montgomery Road, approximately two miles south of Route 29.

Main House

It is a three bay wide, three bay deep, two-and a half story, hipped roof ashlar gray granite (proportionally scaled) structure with a three story high, tent roofed romanesque tower on the northwest corner of the house and a one bay deep south projection two bays wide. Originally it is believed that the house had a west wing similar to the east wing on the west side of what was then a central tower.

North Elevation

Two hipped roofed dormer windows with one-one lite casement eyebrow windows rest in the north roof elevation. This elevation has a wide granite step and three wide wooden steps which lead to the west side of a one story high, hipped roof open porch. This porch runs from the east side of the projecting three story high, west romanesque tower along the entire north elevation of the main house. It is supported by three wooden doric columns.

The main rectangular entrance door holds one light in its upper portion and is flanked by single vertical side lites. It is surmounted by a three lite transom and flat store lintel. A second floor double window rests above the entrance, each component being a rectangular, double-hung, window with one-over-one lites, separated by a flat wooden pilaster, and flanked by black shutters. It is surmounted by a single flat stone lintel.

Two single first and second floor windows rest on the east side of the house, proportionally scaled and vertically aligned and similar to those described. All fenestration is decorated with projecting flat stone sills.

A simple wooden unadorned frieze or belt runs along the roof line which has a projecting wooden cornice decorated with a row of mutules on its underside which run along the entire perimeter of the house. A similar cornice adorns both the rumanesque tower and the wooden pump house east of the north east corner of the main house.

The South Elevation

The east side of the south wall projects southward one bay in length. Its south wall is two bays wide with a wide central, exterior brick chimney between two first and second floor rectangular windows, similar to those described and vertically aligned. A single rectangular second floor window rests in its west wall.

On the west side of the south wall rests a singel, rectangular, second floor window in the west corner and a double rectangular window east of it, each component a rectangular, double-hung window

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

holding one-over-one lites, separated by a flat wooden pilaster and surmounted by a single flat, stone lintel.

The East Elevation

The east elevation of the main house holds three first and second floor vertically aligned, rectangular windows similar to those already described.

A first floor rectangular kitchen entrance is located in the south bay and is approached by one stone and four wooden steps which lead to shed roofed, one bay wide, one bay deep, wooden frame vestibule.

A cellar window rests in the north bay and a cellar door in the center of the west wall. A single, hipped roof dormer is inset into the north side of the roof of this elevation.

The Tower

The north elevation of the tower holds a first floor rectangular, double-hung window with one-over-one lites, similarly decorated as described. Above rests a roman arched, double-hung second floor window in both the east and north elevations, of which one-over-one lites are decorated with black shutters, projecting stone sills and full arched ashlar stone lintels. Above on the third floor of the east, west and north elevations rests a bulls' eye composed of a single central circular lite, surrounded by four lites radiating outward from it to the perimeter of the circular window. A projecting, horizontal, stone belt course separates the second and third floors on all elevations.

The east wall of the tower holds a central, rectangular wooden cross paneled door with one lite transom, surmounted by a flat, stone lintel.

Two lite, horizontal, rectangular cellar windows are centered into the base of the tower on the north and west elevations, surmounted by flat stone lintels.

The West Elevation of the Main House & Tower

The west side of the tower blends into the west elevation of the main body of the house. A wide, brick (laid in flemish bond) exterior chimney rises just south of the south wall of the tower. North of this chimney are two first floor rectangular windows similar to others already described and a single second floor window vertically aligned to the one on the south side which is inset into half of the tower wall and half of the house wall which are contiguous on this elevation. Two similar floor windows are south of the brick chimney with the single second floor window vertically aligned to the southernmost first floor window.

Brick Addition

Extending from the west side of the south wall of the main house is a three bay wide, one room deep brick (laid in running bond brick) one story high, flat roofed addition with massively wide exterior brick chimney taking up the central bay of the west wall. This chimney is flanked by double rectangular, louvered five horizontal lite windows.

South Elevation of Brick Addition

A quatrupartite, rectangular louvered, window, each component of which holds five horizontal lites is centered into a central frame projection from the south wall of this addition, which has a brick base.

East Elevation of Brick Addition

A rectangular, double entrance door, each side holding four horizontal lites rests in the north bay of the east wall and is surmounted by a six lite transom. A double louvered window, each component holding five horizontal lites rests in the south bay of the east wall. Three stone steps with brick risers lead to the entrance door.

OUTER BUILDINGS

Pump House

A tent roofed, one story high, frame pumphouse lies east of the north side of the east wall of the main house. It has a south rectangular door set into the center of a recessed south wall which provides a small covered porch. Two wooden posts support the tent roof at the south elevation. It is connected to the kitchen entrance by a flagstone patio.

Smoke House

A gabled roof (running east-west), log house with central battan wood door on the west wall lies east of the house. It is built on a stone foundation.

Outdoor Barbeque Pit

An outdoor barbeque pit with flag stone patio and large outdoor fireplace lies north of the log house. A retaining wall, following the contour of the land rises westward to four stone steps.

Old Barn and Stone Jail

An old barn and stone jail lie north of the house. The foundation of old slave quarters lies east which which were once erect during the tenure of Dr. and Mrs. Fearing. A timber found in the slave quarters had a date of 1805 written upon it.

Gatehouse to Property

A stone gatehouse to the property is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. McLynn (465-2450) off New Cut Road. It is an ashlar gray granite structure with similar cornice to that of Bon Air Manor decorating its roof line.

Cinder Block Outer Building

A cinder block, gabled roof (running east-west) structure lies south of the main

Bon Air Manor
Description
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District 2

house. Mature trees and lovely lawns surround the house and out buildings of this comfortable and gracious home, so solidly constructed and so well maintained.

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) circa 1878

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bon Air traces its history back to 1805 and existent slave quarters east of the house. It was originally known as Benson's Park and consisted of some 268 acres of land. Earliest land records at the Howard County Land Record's Office trace the history of the property back to Mr. Theodore R. S. Boyce who was supposed to have deeded the property to Eliza Boyce on May 7, 1846. (Liber #1, Howard County Land Records) It is very probable that an earlier dwelling was located here dated from this time. A survey of the property was done by William Dawson to settle an equity case in the will of Eliza Boyce (which was filed W6 #1 - 443). In this will written Jan. 12, 1848 she devised land to her neice Georgia Haight.

In 1868 an equity suite by Richard Clark Cooke, plaintiff vs Georgia Haight was instituted which resulted in the settlement of the estate. On June 1, 1871, Georgia Haight conveyed land to Henry Winter. (Howard County Record's Office # 31-187). Between 1871 and 1878 Mr. Winter built Bon Air Manor and gate house. The Hopkins Atlas of 1878 notes the property and buildings.

Others owners were a Dr. Bordley who bought the house and land for his brother to raise mushrooms. Latter Mr. Claude Skinner, Sr. lived here. In 1950 Dr. and Mrs. William Fearing, present owners bought the property and in 1955 made it their permanent home. Mr. Skinner brought Dr. and Mrs. Fearing an old rafter from the old slave quarters located on the property east of Bon Air Manor. The rafter had the date 1805 written on it.

Whether a previous stone residence stood on the foundation of the present house at that time is presently only conjecture. It does, however, appear to be a reasonable assumption.

Architecturally the building is significant as an example of the Italianate style as evidenced in the mid to late nineteenth century in Howard County, Maryland. The vernacular granite architecture of Howard County with its fine scale and proportions is blended into the Italianate by the construction of the three story high romanesque tower on the south west corner, so characteristic of the Italianate.

The wide, overhanging cornice decorated by a row of mutules running along the entire perimeter of the hipped roof line of both the main house and the roof of the tower is also representative of the Italianate derived from the Italian Renaissance. The Romanesque revival style was also in vogue at this time in the United States. The second floor roman windows of the tower are representative of this style.

In conclusion Bon Air Manor is an exceptionally fine eclectic building successfully blending elements of the Italianate, Romanesque and Howard County vernacular stone architecture.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Bon Air Manor
Significance Statement
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District 2

For these reasons Bon Air Manor should be considered for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places, the Critical Areas State Planning Program and any future local landmark legislation.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mrs. William Fearing at Bon Air Manor on March 11, 1977

Private records of Mrs. William Fearing.

Hopkins Atlas of 1878 of Howard County, Maryland

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION: Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE:

STREET AND NUMBER:
3450 Courthouse Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City

STATE: Maryland

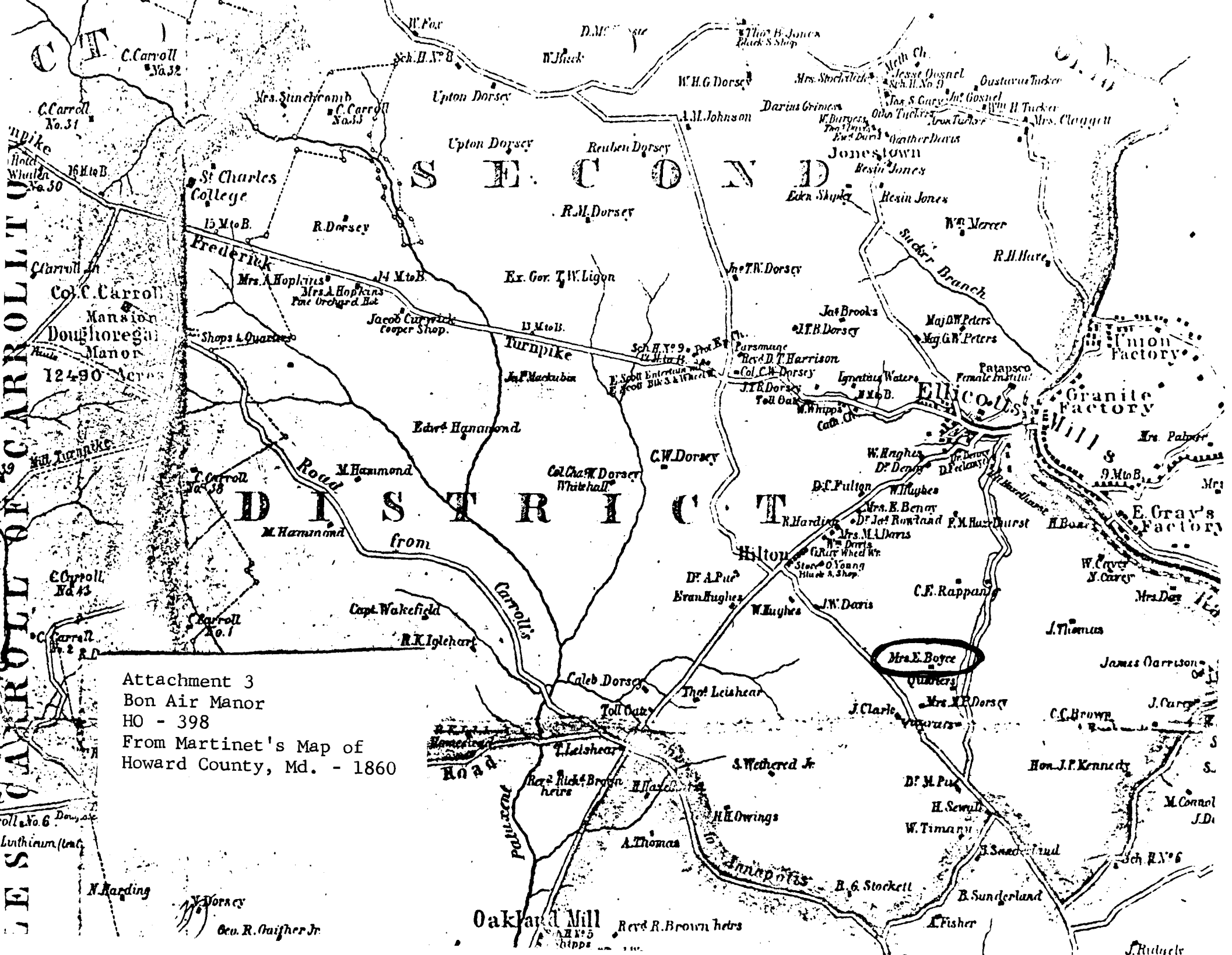
21043

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
National State Local

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Attachment 3
 Bon Air Manor
 HO - 398
 From Martinet's Map of
 Howard County, Md. - 1860

THE CARROLL OF CARROLL COUNTY

S E C O N D

D I S T R I C T

Mrs. E. Boyce
 Quarters

Oakland Mill

Granite Factory

E. Gray's Factory

Union Factory

St. Charles College

Col. C. Carroll
 Mansion
 Doughoregan
 Manor

12490 Acres

C. Carroll
 No. 43

C. Carroll
 No. 1

C. Carroll
 No. 31

Carroll's Road

Turnpike

Sucker Branch

Poluxent Road

Ellicott's Mills

Ellicott's Mills

Hills

Frederick

Shops & Quarters

Carroll's

Ex. Gov. T. W. Ligon

J. F. Macubin

Col. Chas. W. Dorsey
 Whitehall

Sch. H. No. 9

Sch. H. No. 8

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Sch. H. No. 6

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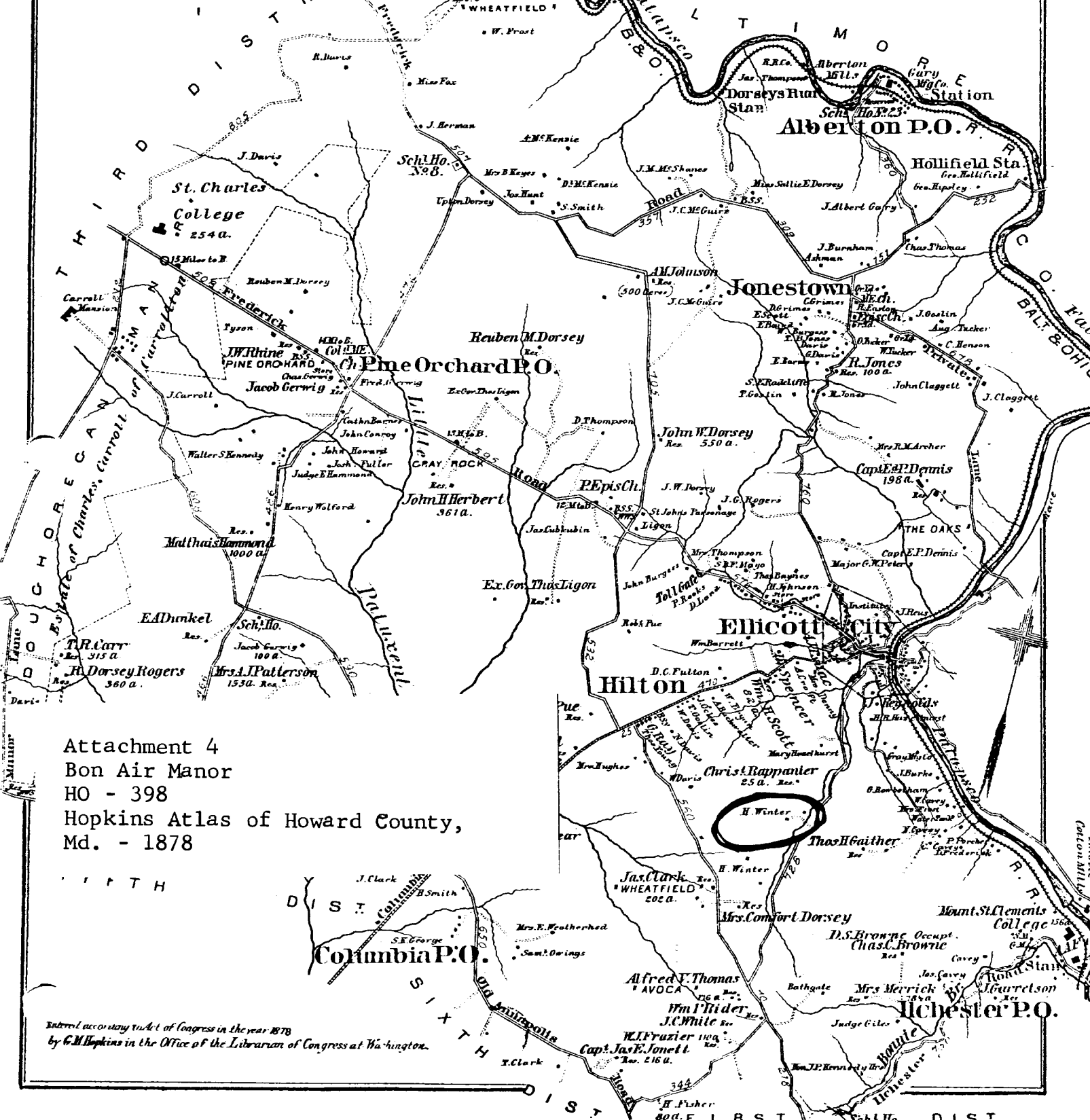
Sch. H. No. -99

Sch. H. No. -100

(SECOND DISTRICT)

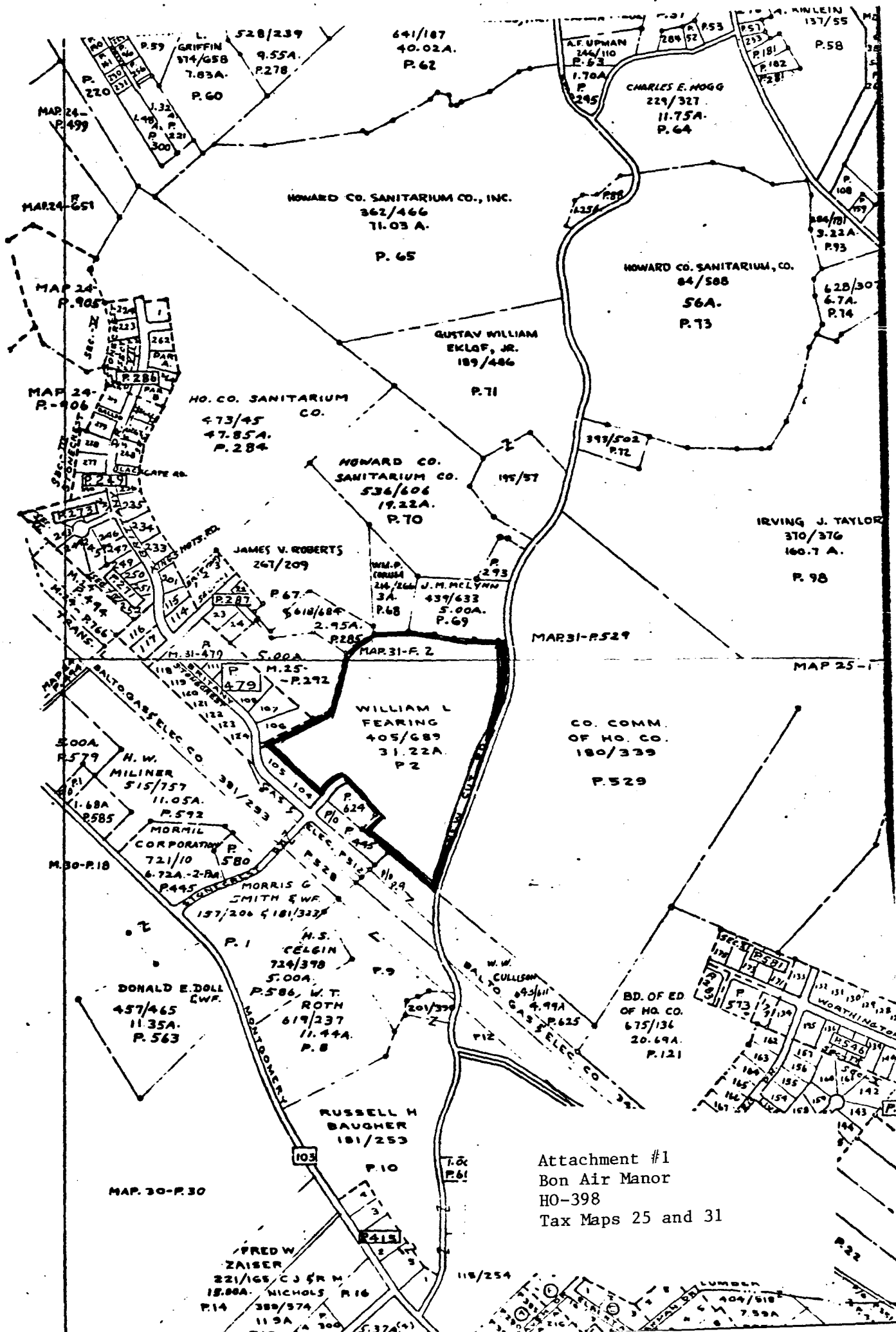
EXPLANATIONS
 Dist. & Co. Lines
 County Roads
 Private "
 Turnpike "
 Rail Roads
 Streams
 The figures along the Roads
 shows the distance in Rods,
 from junction to junction thereof

HOWARD COUNTY
 Scale 2 Inches per Mile



Attachment 4
 Bon Air Manor
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 Hopkins Atlas of Howard County,
 Md. - 1878

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1878
 by G.M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.



Attachment #1
 Bon Air Manor
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 Tax Maps 25 and 31

MAP. 30-P. 30

MAP 25-1

HOWARD CO. SANITARIUM CO., INC.
 362/466
 11.03 A.
 P. 65

HOWARD CO. SANITARIUM, CO.
 84/588
 56A.
 P. 73

HO. CO. SANITARIUM CO.
 473/45
 47.85A.
 P. 284

HOWARD CO. SANITARIUM CO.
 536/606
 19.22A.
 P. 70

IRVING J. TAYLOR
 370/376
 160.7 A.
 P. 98

WILLIAM L FEARING
 405/689
 31.22A.
 P. 2

CO. COMM. OF HO. CO.
 180/339
 P. 529

DONALD E. DOLL
 EWF.
 457/465
 11.35A.
 P. 563

M.S. CELGIN
 724/378
 5.00A.
 P. 586, W.T. ROTH
 619/237
 11.44A.
 P. 8

RUSSELL H BAUGHER
 181/253
 P. 10

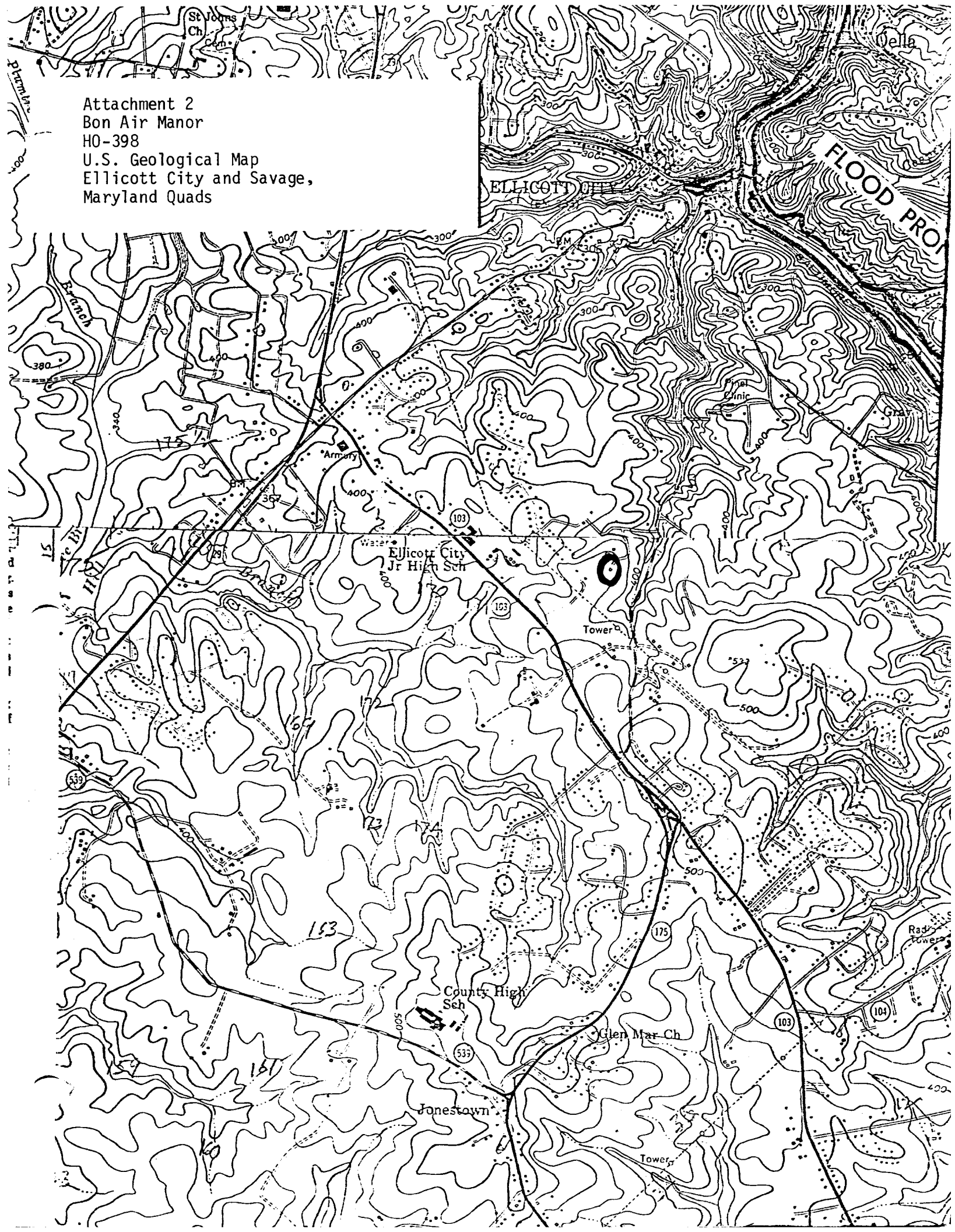
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 20.69A.
 P. 121

FRED W. ZAISER
 221/166, C.J. & M. NICHOLS
 18.80A. P. 16
 P. 14 389/374
 11.9A
 P. 15 5.37A

118/254

P. 22

Attachment 2
Bon Air Manor
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U.S. Geological Map
Ellicott City and Savage,
Maryland Quads





CLEORA BARNES THOMPSON
PLANNING CONSULTANT
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

BONAIR MANOR

HO-398

MAY-1977