

HO-412

## Gray Rock (Grey Rock)

### **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.

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

HO-412  
GRAY ROCK  
Ellicott City  
Private

early nineteenth century

Gray Rock is notable as the home of Thomas Beale Dorsey who moved from the vicinity of the Old Brick Church to be closer to his two brothers, John Worthington Dorsey and Caleb (of Thomas) who lived on "Three Brothers". He died here September 6, 1828.

Later the home of James MacKubin, it passed to John H. Herbert and his heirs. This four bay wide, one room deep, two and a half story, gabled roof (running north-south) frame structure has a brick chimney inset into its north wall and three gabled roof dormer windows set into the roof of its east facade.

An early shed roofed, one and a half story appendage resting on the south wall of the house in no way detracts from the integrity and scale of Thomas Beale Dorsey's "old plantation home".

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1** NAME

HISTORIC

Grey Rock

AND/OR COMMON

Gray Rock

**2** LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

9579 Frederick Rd. (now at 3518 Angus Valley Trail)

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ellicott City

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland 21043

**3** CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Miller Land Company

Telephone #: 465-0600

STREET & NUMBER

9579 Frederick Road

Maryland 21043

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Ellicott City

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

**5** LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

Liber #: 447

Folio #: 639

STREET & NUMBER

Howard County Court House

Maryland 21043

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Ellicott City

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

May, 1977

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland 21401

CITY, TOWN

STATE

21 State Circle, Annapolis

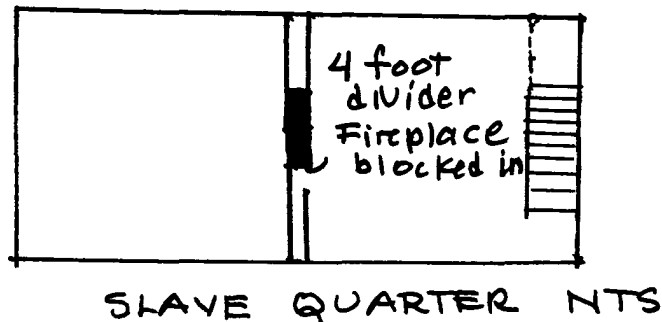
7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> </div> <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unclered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>Grey Rock is located approximately two miles west of MacAlpine Road on the south side of Frederick Road. A driveway bordered by mature trees leads to an old frame farmhouse, two and a half stories high, four bays wide and two bays deep with three gabled roof dormers inset into the east and west sides of its gabled roof. A square brick chimney rises from the north wall and from the center of the south wall of the 2nd south bay. Wooden appendages lie off the south and west walls of the house.</p> <p><u>Main House</u> The white frame of the building is beaded along the underside. Main rectangular, wooden paneled entrances on the east and west walls lie in their second north bays and lead into a central hall and stairway. The west door is noteworthy, an open bible and cross paneled door is surmounted by a three lite transom. A flat roofed one story high, open porch runs along the east elevation supported by six square wooden columns. The floor of the open porch is flagstone laid on a cinderblock foundation, two granite steps on the north, and one on the east lead to the porch. Fenestration is rectangular, double-hung holding two-over-two lites, vertically aligned and proportionally scaled, and on the east or front facade are decorated with black wooden shutters. The dormers on the east and west elevations hold double-hung windows with two-over-two lites decorated with thin flat wooden lintels and flanked by slender, unadorned pilasters, surmounted by pediments. The north elevation holds two similar first and second floor windows with two double-hung attic windows holding one-over-one lights. The west elevation is similar to the east elevation with these exceptions. (1) the southernmost dormer holds two-over-four lites, and (2) a flat roofed one story high frame appendage lies along the entire west elevation, constructed in two periods as the framework on the north is vertical and holds a one lite rectangular entrance door in the center of the west wall. South of the door a pilaster is located, which may have originally been a supporting a pillar to an open porch. South of it all framework is horizontal. A double rectangular window, each component double-hung with two-over-two lites lies south of the pilaster while a similar single window lies in the south bay.</p> <p><u>Shed Roof South Wing</u> A shed roofed two story high appendage extends from the south wall of the farm house, one bay deep and two bays wide. The shed roof extends downward to provide a roof for the one story high screened in porch. A rectangular entrance with two lites in its upper portion rests in the west bay and a one lite horizontal rectangular window in the east bay. The east and west walls hold a single first and second floor double-hung window with six-over-six lites. An interior enclosed staircase is located on the north wall of the addition with a battan wood door.</p> <p><u>Gray Rock's Stone Quarters</u> It is a one and a half story high, four bay wide, one bay deep, gabled roof stone structure with square central brick chimney and gabled roof dormer</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

windows located in the north bay of the east side and the north and south bays of the west elevation. That on the east elevation as well as the south bay dormer window on the west elevation hold rectangular double-hung windows with six-over-six lites. That north bay dormer on the west wall holds two-over-two lites. In addition the west elevation holds two first floor rectangular double-hung windows with six-over-six lites. The one on the north appears to have been recently created.

### Stone Quarters

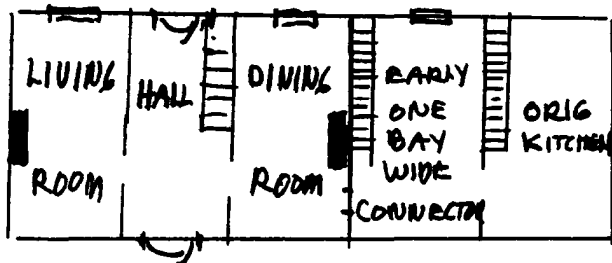
East entrance doors in the north, south and second south bays are rectangular in shape. A first floor rectangular double-hung window with six-over-six lites lies in the second north bay. A wide central, four feet thick dividing wall holding blocked up fireplaces on each side suggests that this stone house was once a two family home for workers at Gray Rock.



### Interior

Federal mantle pieces with ovals decorating the architrave and flanked on each side by fluted pilasters, grace the living room and dining room lying off the central hall of the main house. The small scale of this main body of the house, as seen in its fine staircase and central hall bespeak an early date. The floors appear to be more recent. Mr. Ray Stetcher, resident of Gray Rock speaks of a large supporting beam in the cellar which extends the entire four bays, leading one to believe all four bays were constructed at one time. Often a three bay wide house was constructed with outdoor kitchen which was later connected. This might well be the case, as three separate staircases exist.

Two one and a half story modern frame buildings lie southwest of the stone quarters, while large barns and carriage house lie east.



GRAY ROCK.

\*Note

The two-over-two lites in the windows of the main house are believed to be a replacement of earlier sashes holding six-over-six lites.

**B. SIGNIFICANCE** Gray Rock

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 1813

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/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of Gray Rock is tied to the history of the Dorsey family whose members owned numerous tracts of land throughout Howard County. The famous Caleb of Hockley, of Ann Arundel County, had a son Thomas Beale Dorsey who had three sons; (1) Caleb of Thomas, (2) John Worthington Dorsey and (3) Thomas Beale Dorsey. The tract, "Three Brothers" was so named for them, which lies just north of Gray Rock north of Rt. 144 and included the tracts, "Mount Gilboa", "Barne's Luck", "Days Discovery", "Mount Etna", and "Gaither's Adventure".

Caleb Dorsey, of Thomas lived at Arcadia a part of the present Valley Meade subdivision off Route 40 on "Three Brothers". It was this Caleb Dorsey (of Thomas) who gave the land for St. John's Episcopal Church. (HO-26, District 2) His son, Reuben Dorsey owned a tract of land east of "Three Brothers", called "Rebecca's Lot". It was Reuben Dorsey who later gave the land for St. John's Rectory on the east side of St. John's Lane.

Charles Worthington Dorsey settled on the western part of "Three Brothers" and built the Old Brick House on the Pike, which still stands on the north side of Route 40 (HO-25, District 2).

The third brother, Thomas Beale Dorsey, father of Judge Thomas Beale Dorsey, Jr. who built Mount Hebron inherited land near the Old Brick Church "Crosses Forest", which he held and where he spent the earlier years of his adult life. Dr. Dorsey points out in his Origin of "Grey Rock" the following acquisitions which Thomas Beale Dorsey made to enlarge this homestead:

... in fact on August 1, 1787 he purchased from Samuel Stringer Coale 44 and 3/4 acres, part of an adjoining tract called "Cocksell". (A.A. Co. Deeds N.H. No. 3, F. 41) and on June 3, 1802 he bought from John Stringer a part of "Crosses Forest" 135 1/4 acres and a part of "Addition to Hobb's Park" adjoining (A.A. Co. Deeds N.H. No. 11, f. 596)...

Later, at age fifty-five he desired to live nearer his two brothers and located south of what is now route 144 or Old Frederick Road near The Old Brick House on The Pike and Arcadia.

In Dr. Caleb Dorsey's booklet on the origin of "Grey Rock" he tells of

<sup>1</sup> Dorsey, Dr. Caleb, The Origin of "Grey Rock", Ellicott City, 1975. p. 3A.

SEE INST. ACTIONS

the following land transactions made by Thomas Beale Dorsey in 1813 and later in 1816:

.... on June 23 of that year he bought from his brother Caleb parts of the following tracts, on the South side of the Frederick Turnpike (Md. 144): parts of "Pinkstone's Delight" and "Fifth Addition" containing 204 acres, part of "Ben's Luck" 27 acres, part of "Rebecca's Lot" and "Gaither's Adventure" or "Ferry Bridge" containing 59 acres. (A.A. Co. Deeds W.S.G. No. 2, f. 365).

On August 8, 1816 he bought from Judge Richard Ridgely a part of "Freeborn's Progress" later resurveyed and called "Smith's Fortune" containing 10 acres and 28 square perches and another part of "Freeborn's Progress" and the "Addition to Freeborn's Progress" and the resurvey thereon containing  $97\frac{1}{4}$  acres (A.A. Co. Deeds W.S.G. No. 4, F. 459).

On January 27, 1817 he bought from Charles W. Dorsey parts of "Ben's Delight" and "John's Luck" on the South side of the Frederick Turnpike bounding on "Ben's Luck" containing 2 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres, (A.A. Co. Deeds W.S.G. No. 5, f. 1).

He also took up "The Triangle" and "Kelly's Neglect", small vacancies adjoining "Ferry Bridge", "Pinkstone's Delight" and "Rebecca's Lot".

These properties located on the South side of what is now Md. 2 144, were all contiguous and adjoined "Three Brothers" on the South.

According to Dr. Dorsey the present home is said to be of log construction covered with clapboard and is believed to antedate Thomas B. Dorsey's purchase by many years. The scale of the interior would justify this. Though three bays wide and one room deep with an early south bay added like many of the later 19th century Dorsey homes, the smaller scale and lower ceiling heights speak of an early house. The house then dates from at least 1813 but is probably much older.

It is conceivable that the fourth bay on the south end of the house was added at the time Thomas Beale Dorsey bought the property to connect the main house to the frame structure south of the house. This latter structure may be the original log building Dr. Dorsey refers to. Such log structures were often used as kitchens for the dwelling houses, furnishing quarters in the loft for the help.

Thomas Beale Dorsey lived and died here September 6, 1828. Dr. Dorsey points out that he left no sons so that in his will of March 11, 1827, probated October 25, 1828, (A.A. Co. wills TTS No. 1, f. 10) he stated that:

.... he left his "Crosses Forest" lands to his daughter Achsah. His more recent property however, which he called his "dwelling plantation", he left to his wife during her "widowhood" but at her death to go to his daughter Sallie for her life. At her death it was to pass to her eldest son whose name was to be Thomas Beale Dorsey and if he should die before the age of twenty one, then, to the next son whose name should be changed to Thomas Beale Dorsey by act of Assembly. If she should die however, without a son, then her eldest daughter was to inherit the land. The widow died January 31, 1837.

Daughter Sarah married July 21, 1830 Dr. Arthur Pue, Jr. and their first child was a son whom they named Thomas Beale Dorsey Pue who became the heir on May 7, 1848 at the death of his mother. On January 5, 1859

<sup>2</sup>ibid, pp. 3A-3B.

he gave his father power of attorney with all the usual rights and privileges (Howard Co. Deeds W.W.W. 19, f. 441) and on May 21, 1859 Dr. Pue sold the "dwelling plantation" to James Mackubin (Howard Co. Deeds W.W.W. 20, f. 133). In this transfer the grantor records the preceding deeds regarding this property.<sup>3</sup>

Here the history of Gray Rock and MacAlpine become intertwined. It is believed by the Dorsey family that James Mackubin lived at Gray Rock with his first wife, Comfort Augusta Dorsey, born 4-12-1831. She was the daughter of Charles Worthington Dorsey, who first lived at the Old Brick House on the Pike (HO-25) with his wife, Mary Tolley Worthington and later lived at White Hall where Comfort was born. Her two older sisters Ann and Mary Tolley became the wives of Governor Ligon of Maryland. They were all nieces of Thomas Beale Dorsey. Comfort was therefore a first cousin of Sarah Dorsey who inherited Gray Rock from her mother in 1837, seven years after her marriage to Dr. Arthur Pue, Jr. They lived here together for eighteen years until 1848 when Sarah Dorsey Pue died. As has already been pointed out Thomas Beale Dorsey Pue, their first child and son, inherited the property.

Here the history of who lived in the house is a bit obscured. Certainly Dr. Pue lived here but it is believed that six years after the death of Sarah Pue, his wife, James Mackubin, originally from Strawberry Hill in Annapolis, and his wife Comfort Augusta who was a first cousin of Sarah's came to live here after their marriage November 9, 1854. They lived here until August 3, 1854 when Comfort died. In the following year Dr. Arthur Pue's son, heir to Gray Rock, gave Dr. Pue acting "under and by virtue of a Power of Attorney as executor" power to sell Gray Rock to James Mackubin for \$32,000.

James Mackubin's second marriage was to Gabriella Peter, daughter of Major Peter who bought Linwood from Robert Hare, its builder. Gabriella did not enjoy living in the house of her husband's first love and encouraged him to build MacAlpine. They remained at Gray Rock for a time until this was accomplished.

In 1862 James Mackubin sold the property to his father-in-law Charles Worthington Dorsey who, it is pointed out by Dr. Dorsey, immediately leased it back to him for ninety nine years. (Howard Co. Deeds W.W.W. 22, f. 229-230).<sup>4</sup>

Two years later on August 18, 1864 James Mackubin sub-leased the same property to John H. Herbert for ninety nine years (Howard Co. Deeds W.W.W. 23, f. 337.)<sup>5</sup>

The Hopkins Atlas of 1878 shows John H. Herbert holding 361 acres with a residence there called Gray Rock. It well may be that John Herbert gave that name to the property, as Thomas Beale Dorsey always referred to it as "my dwelling plantation".

The conclusion of this history of the title search of Gray Rock is again well and thoroughly stated by Dr. Caleb Dorsey in the following last three paragraphs of his Origin of "Grey Rock".

By a decree of the Circuit Court of Howard County dated January 23, 1911, (Herbert vs. Loflin, Equity Record W.W.L.C. no. 33, f. 526), it was ordered that the property be sold to make a fair division among the heirs. It was stated that John H. Herbert held title from above lease and from a deed dated April 11, 1868 from G. Watkins Ligon, Trustee, another son-in-law of Charles Worthington

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, pp. 3B-3C.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 3C.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

Dorsey. (Howard County Deeds 28, f. 232). It also stated that Herbert died about January 11, 1904, leaving five heirs. Louis T. Clark was appointed trustee to sell the property.

This sale occurred on April 13, 1911 and the purchasers were George H. Sloatfield and William Sloatfield. (Howard County Deeds W.W.L.C. 91, f. 12).

On May 14, 1943 George H. Sloatfield and Elizabeth M. Sloatfield his wife and William Sloatfield sold the above to Charles E. Miller and his wife Grace E. Miller, (Howard County Deeds 178, f. 49) who are the present owners.

It was Mr. Charles E. Miller who donated land from this tract for the Howard County library.

Architecturally Thomas Beale Dorsey's "dwelling plantation" is noteworthy as a fine example of an early nineteenth century frame dwelling house. The stone slave quarters, located south west of the main house are also standing in fine condition and used as a charming dwelling.

Of exceptional value to the county historically, the house and quarters is certainly worthy of placement to The National Register, The State Planning Program for Critical Areas and any future local landmark legislation. Kept in fine condition with barns lying south and approached by an avenue of mature trees, the integrity of its surroundings are as unique as its architecture and history.

Architecturally Gray Rock is a pleasing composition set into a mature grove of trees.

Because of its outstanding history and architectural integrity, Gray Rock should be considered for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places, the State's Critical Areas Program and any future local landmark legislation.

\*Note on Spelling of Gray Rock:

Mr. Herbert who bought Gray Rock went to Baltimore each day and one day told a stone cutter to chisel Gray Rock on the stone pillars on each side of the driveway to the house. He was told to spell grey, g-r-e-y. When he came home he found it was spelled G-r-a-y and was very provoked but couldn't change it.

His grandchildren who were brought up at Gray Rock built Temora, one of Howard County's National Register properties.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, pp. 3C-3D.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Dorsey, Dr. Caleb. Origin of Gray Rock. Ellicott City, 1925.
2. Dorsey, Dr. Caleb. Land Grant Map of Howard County.
3. Hopkins Atlas of Howard County, Md. 1878.
4. Private papers of Mrs. Carl Papa.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 331.493 Acres + 1mp

Please see attachment 1, Tax Map 24

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see attachment 1, Tax Map 24

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
<u>Maryland</u>	<u>Howard</u>
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Planning Consultant May, 1977

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Comprehensive Planning Office, 3450 Courthouse Drive 465-5000 Ext. 257

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Ellicott City,

Maryland

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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




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 Maryland Historical Trust

June 2, 1981

Mr. Ed Shull  
 Howard County Department of  
 Recreation and Parks  
 George Howard Building  
 3430 Court House Drive  
 Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Dear Mr. Shull:

Recently I had the opportunity to inspect Gray Rock Farm, listed on the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory of Historic Sites as historic site HO-412. As the building's owner, Mr. Paul Miller, is interested in possibly rehabilitating the house, rather than demolishing it as part of the large residential development which now partially encircles it, I wanted to give you my opinion as to the importance of the dwelling house and quarter, auxiliary outbuildings, surrounding plantings, and discuss some preservation options which he could use to help preserve this important structure for the future.

As you know, the building was previously surveyed by Mrs. Cleora Thompson in 1977. In her research on the farm, Mrs. Thompson provided convincing evidence that the house was built perhaps as early as 1813, by members of the prominent Dorsey family, originally from Anne Arundel County and later Howard County. Her research, which relied heavily on Dr. Caleb Dorsey's 1925 booklet The Origin of "Grey Rock", shows that large land purchases by Thomas Beale Dorsey, Jr. took place in 1813, 1816, and 1817. While this in itself does not indicate that a house was constructed as of that time period, the dates do corroborate structural evidence which indicates the house was probably constructed during the period 1815-1820.

Because the building's construction history is unclear, I visited the site on May 26 to try to determine a history for the house. While this task was difficult, enough physical evidence was present and could be interpreted to postulate a probable development history for the house.

Structural evidence suggests that the house was originally constructed circa 1815-1820, and consisted of two distinct parts. The first and oldest section is the southernmost bay on the main, four bay facade. This part of the building, which may have been a separate structure dating to the 18th century (Dr. Dorsey's The Origin of Grey Rock differentiates a building "of log construction covered with clapboard probably antedating Thomas' purchase by many years" from Thomas Beale Dorsey's "dwelling plantation") exhibits exposed and beaded corner posts in its southeast and southwest corners and a large five foot wide fireplace. Investigation of the building indicates that this was incorporated into the main block when it was erected circa 1815-1820. (Evidence for this

Mr. Ed Shull  
June 2, 1981  
Page -2-

consolidation exists in the building's framing system, which can be viewed in the basement. Clearly, the plates to the smaller section about the larger frame of the main house.) The second, larger, three bay wide section consisting of an entrance hall flanked by two large parlors, exhibits very fine early 19th century architectural features including moldings, architraves, doors, step ends, newels, newel posts, and mantels. These are similar to features found in the Edward McPherson House, constructed circa 1820 near Frederick (survey form attached for comparison).

Nails taken from various locations in the structure offer further evidence to substantiate an early 19th century construction date. Exterior sheathing nails taken from the beaded weatherboarding are of a transitional type, with hand made heads on machine cut shafts. These "double struck" nails, as they are known, were used generally during a period from 1790 through 1820. Other finishing nails, taken in all sections of the roof where lath was exposed, are examples of early 19th century machine headed cut nails, which were used during the period 1815 through 1830. Thus, the overlapping of the use of these two nail types lead us to the circa 1815-1820 construction date.

Evidence in the hall of the house also leads one to believe that the axis of the house has been reversed in modern times. One now enters the property from an access road, off of Frederick Road, turning left to enter a circular drive with spectacular specimens of linden, copper beach, Norway, and sugar maple trees -- which should be preserved at all costs. While this is now so, architectural evidence -- including the placement of the first floor stair and the placement of a three light transom over the entrance door in the western, rather than eastern facade -- clearly shows that one originally approached the main facade of the house from the west.

This point should be taken into account when considering renovating the house. If a drive could be built to approach the house from this direction, it could be easily inserted to link it with the subdivision roads which already exist to the west of the house. This would also produce a usable "back yard" by then using the area where the trees and drive are now found.

By now you have ascertained that I feel quite strongly that the house is important (it certainly is of National Register quality, in my estimation) and should be preserved. It is an important house, both from historical and architectural perspectives, with its associations with the Dorsey family and its fine Federal and Greek Revival details. The stone quarter to the rear of the house is also highly significant, and should be retained. As for the other ancillary outbuildings, two of these appear to be important. The first is a frame building which sits on a high stone basement. Its construction features indicate this could have been used as a granary, although this is now used only for storage. The second important building is the Victorian, cross-plan hay barn with cupola. These buildings are important, agrarian structures, and should be retained on the house site, if possible. If not these buildings should at least be measured (to produce architectural drawings) and possibly disassembled and moved to another location, hopefully, such as a county park where they could be re-used.

Mr. Ed Shull  
June 2, 1981  
Page -3-

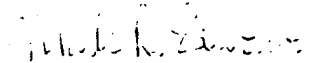
If the house is retained -- and I feel strongly that it should be -- the house should be sold with restrictions to a person willing to preserve as much of the original fabric and setting of the building as possible. All interior features, as listed on the second page of this letter, should be preserved, as should the beaded exterior weatherboarding. The setting and trees which surround the house should also be preserved. In addition 18th and 19th century tombstones which are extant in various locations on the property (underneath a paved courtyard by the cattle barn and near the house, for example) should be unearthed, cleaned, and reset.

To insure the preservation of these significant features, Mr. Miller should be encouraged to review, with his attorney, the donation of a preservation easement to the Trust. This legal tool ensures the preservation of a property without the necessity of public ownership. Most importantly, Mr. Miller or a new owner may benefit from this donation through financial savings in his federal income tax and estate tax. (Detailed information on our easement program is enclosed, both in our general brochure and our blue easement brochure. These should be passed onto Mr. Miller, if possible.)

As the house is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places and probably would be sold as a residence (i.e., is not income-producing) a number of grant and other financial programs the Trust administers could not be used by Mr. Miller or a new owner in the rehabilitation of this property. However, the Trust administers other programs which could be used, including a revolving fund loan program (see enclosed form and our general brochure), state grant program (see enclosed general brochure -- revised application will be sent to you when ready), and state income tax deduction for preservation of historic property (see enclosed law and form 502H). For more information on any of this Mr. Miller should contact Mr. William Pencek, Federal Projects Administrator, a member of the Trust's Technical Preservation Services division, at 269-2212.

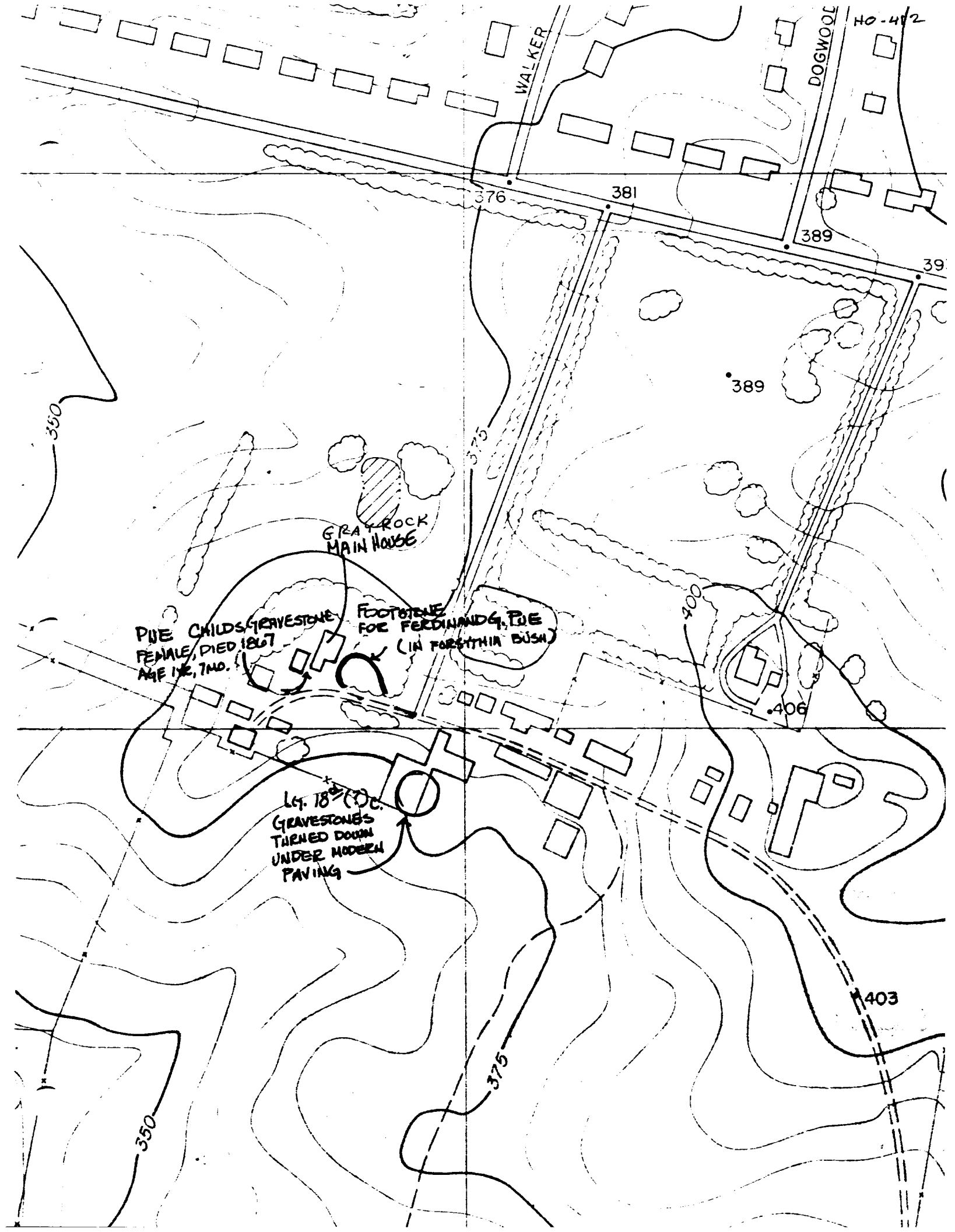
Hopefully, I have provided you with enough information to present to Mr. Miller to urge the building's preservation. I would be pleased to discuss this with you and/or Mr. Miller in the future, should you wish to do so. And I am sure Mr. Pencek or another member of our Technical Preservation Services staff would also be pleased to meet. If I can provide you with additional information or clarify any of this for you, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Edwards  
Historic Sites  
Survey Coordinator

MRE:mms  
Enclosures  
cc: Mr. William Pencek



HO-402

WALKER

DOGWOOD

376

381

389

39

389

350

GRAY ROCK  
MAIN HOUSE

PUE CHILDS GRAVESTONE  
FEMALE, DIED 1867  
AGE 1 1/2, 7MO.

FOOTSTONE  
FOR FERDINAND G. PUE  
(IN FORSYTHIA BUSH)

400

406

Lgt. 18 (30)  
GRAVESTONES  
TURNED DOWN  
UNDER MODERN  
PAVING

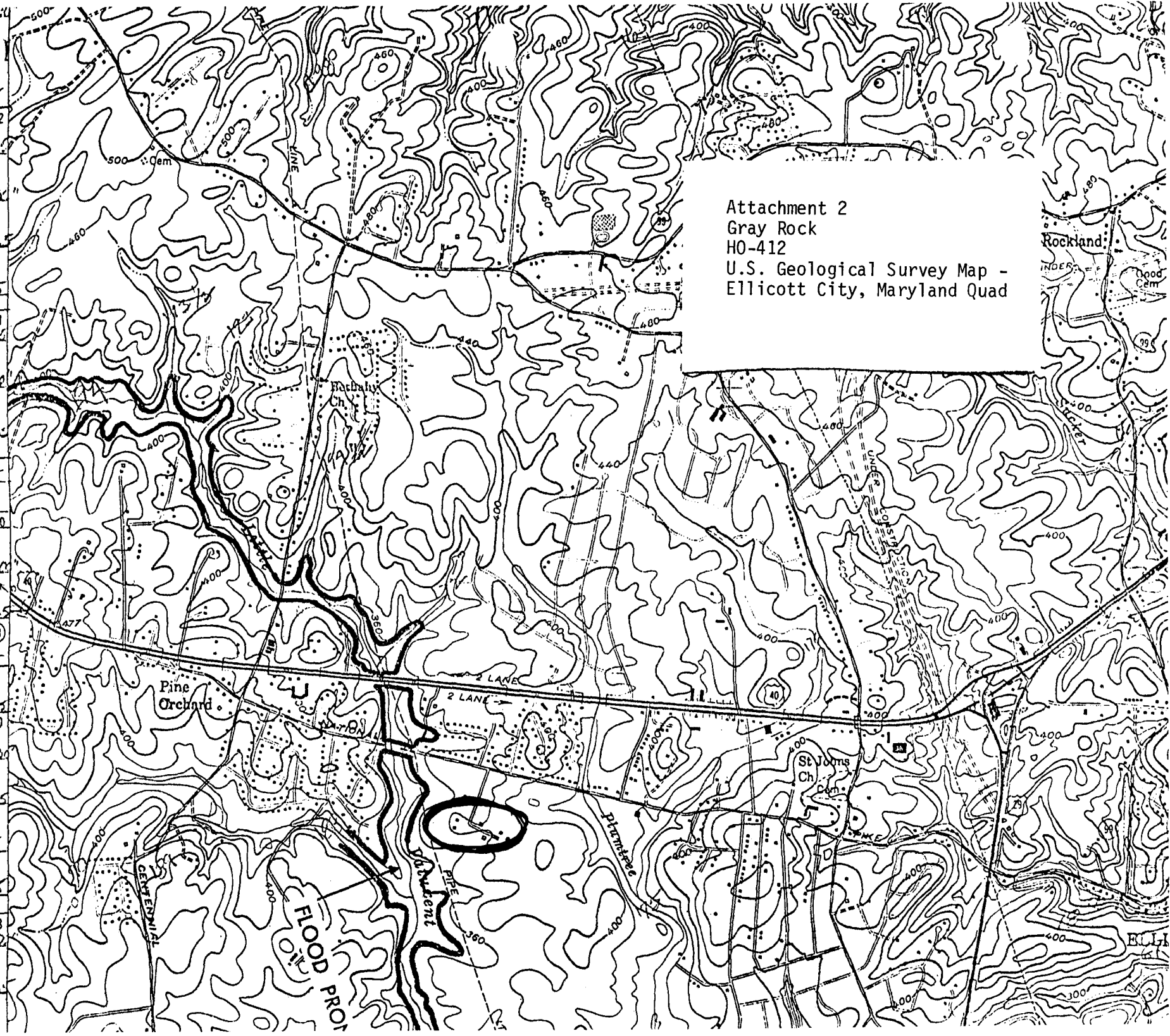
403

350

375

37° 18' 00"  
15  
4352  
7.2  
39° 18' 00"  
22.5  
45  
4351  
32.2  
39° 17' 30"  
17.30  
7.2  
15  
7.2  
39° 17' 00"  
22.5  
32.2  
4349  
17.30  
7.2  
15  
7.2  
4348  
39° 16' 00"  
22.5

COOKSVILLE (UNCL. MD. 97) 8.3 MI.  
WEST FRIENDSHIP 4.5 MI.  
(144)



Attachment 2  
Gray Rock  
HO-412  
U.S. Geological Survey Map -  
Ellicott City, Maryland Quad

Rockland

Good Cem.

ELLICOTT CITY

394/407  
85.56A  
P. 20

LEON. A.  
CRANE, ETAL.  
565/503  
23.26A.  
P. 702

ERIC  
ILASSOTVITCH  
SUB. TRUSTEE  
WILL-7/78  
12A. P.810

STANLEY  
BOARDMAN  
446/643  
5.05A.  
P.1000  
P. 493

NICHOLAS B. MANGIONE - 3/8 INT.  
M. LEONARDI - 1/8 INT.  
785/164  
2.9.440A.  
P. 654

THE MILLER LAND CO.  
704/361  
22.53A.  
P.1030

LUTHERAN HOSPITAL  
OF MD. INC.  
680/716  
50.00A.  
P.1001

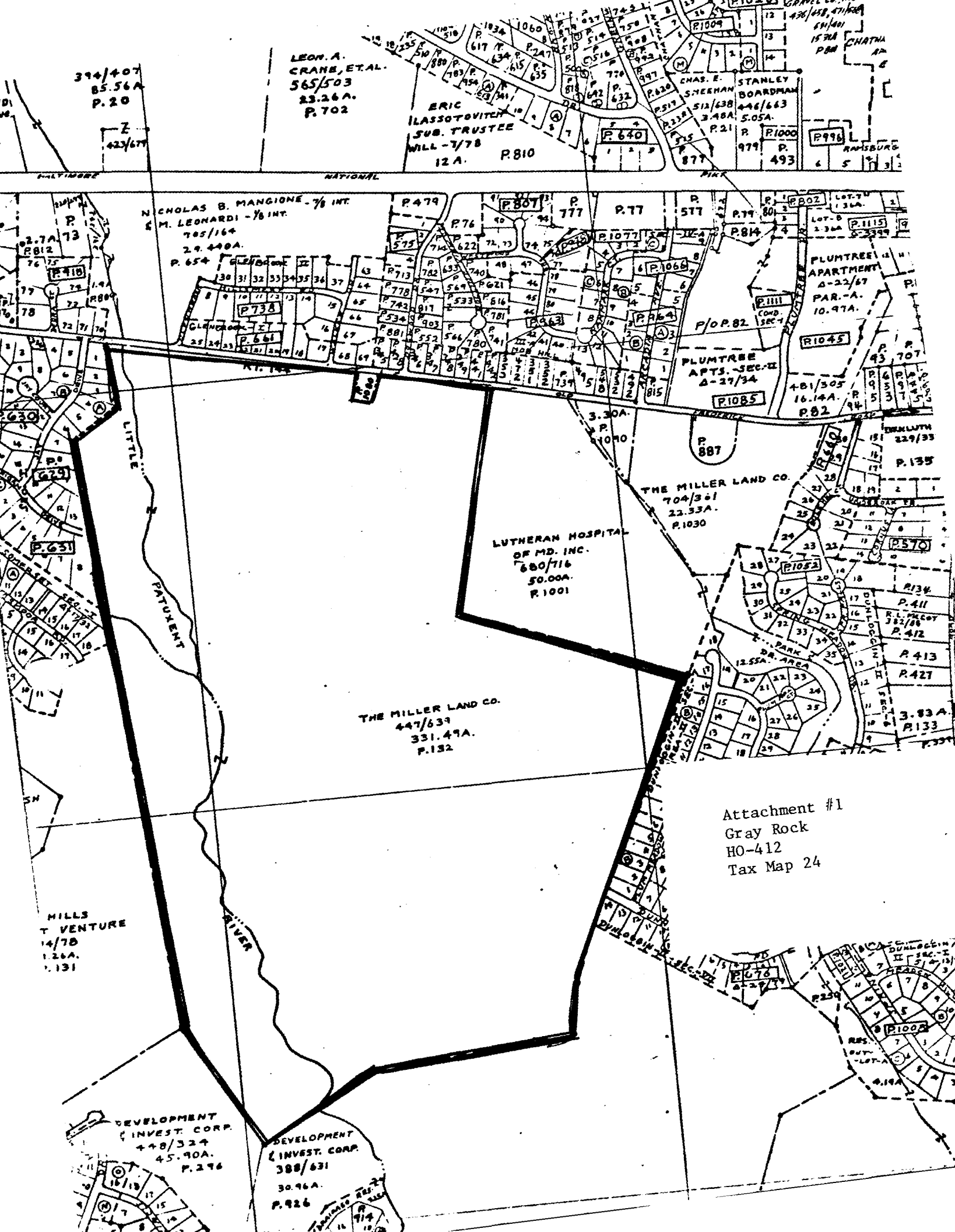
THE MILLER LAND CO.  
447/639  
331.49A.  
P.132

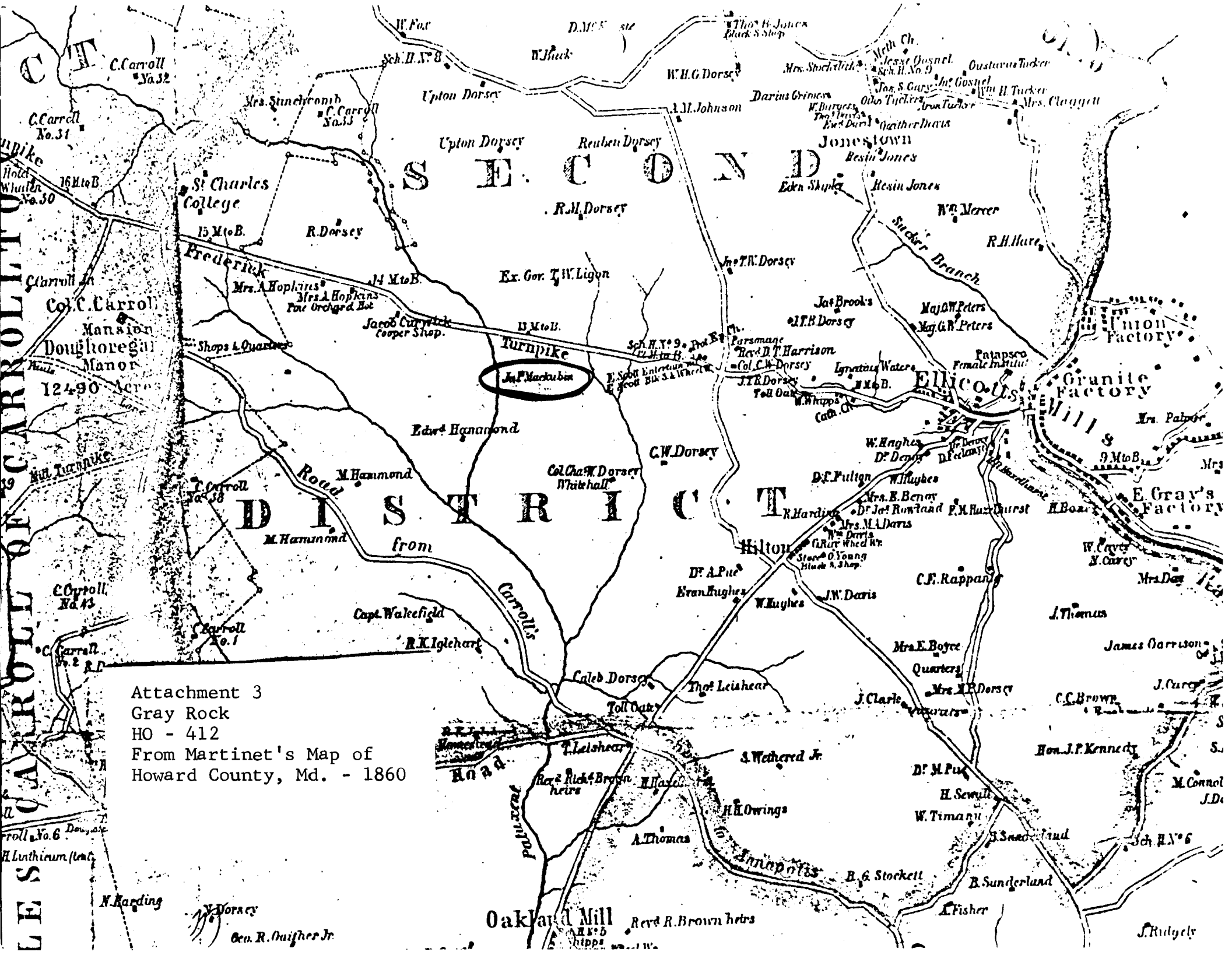
Attachment #1  
Gray Rock  
HO-412  
Tax Map 24

HILLS  
T VENTURE  
14/78  
1.26A.  
P.131

DEVELOPMENT  
& INVEST. CORP.  
448/324  
45.90A.  
P.296

DEVELOPMENT  
& INVEST. CORP.  
388/631  
30.96A.  
P.926





Attachment 3  
 Gray Rock  
 HO - 412  
 From Martinet's Map of  
 Howard County, Md. - 1860

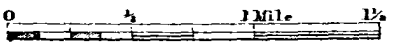
Oakland Mill

Gen. R. Quigley Jr.

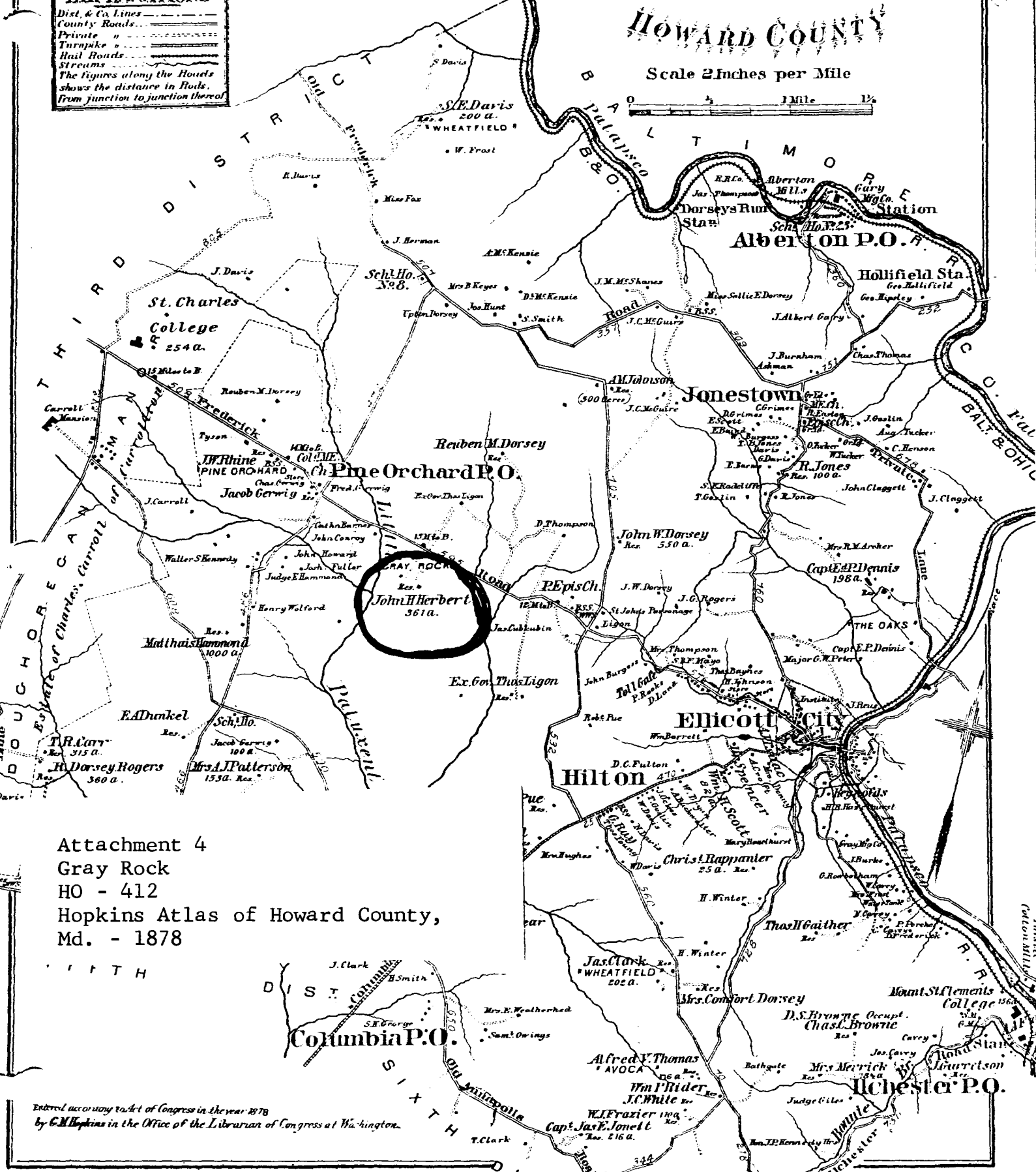
# (SECOND DISTRICT)

## HOWARD COUNTY

Scale 2 inches per Mile

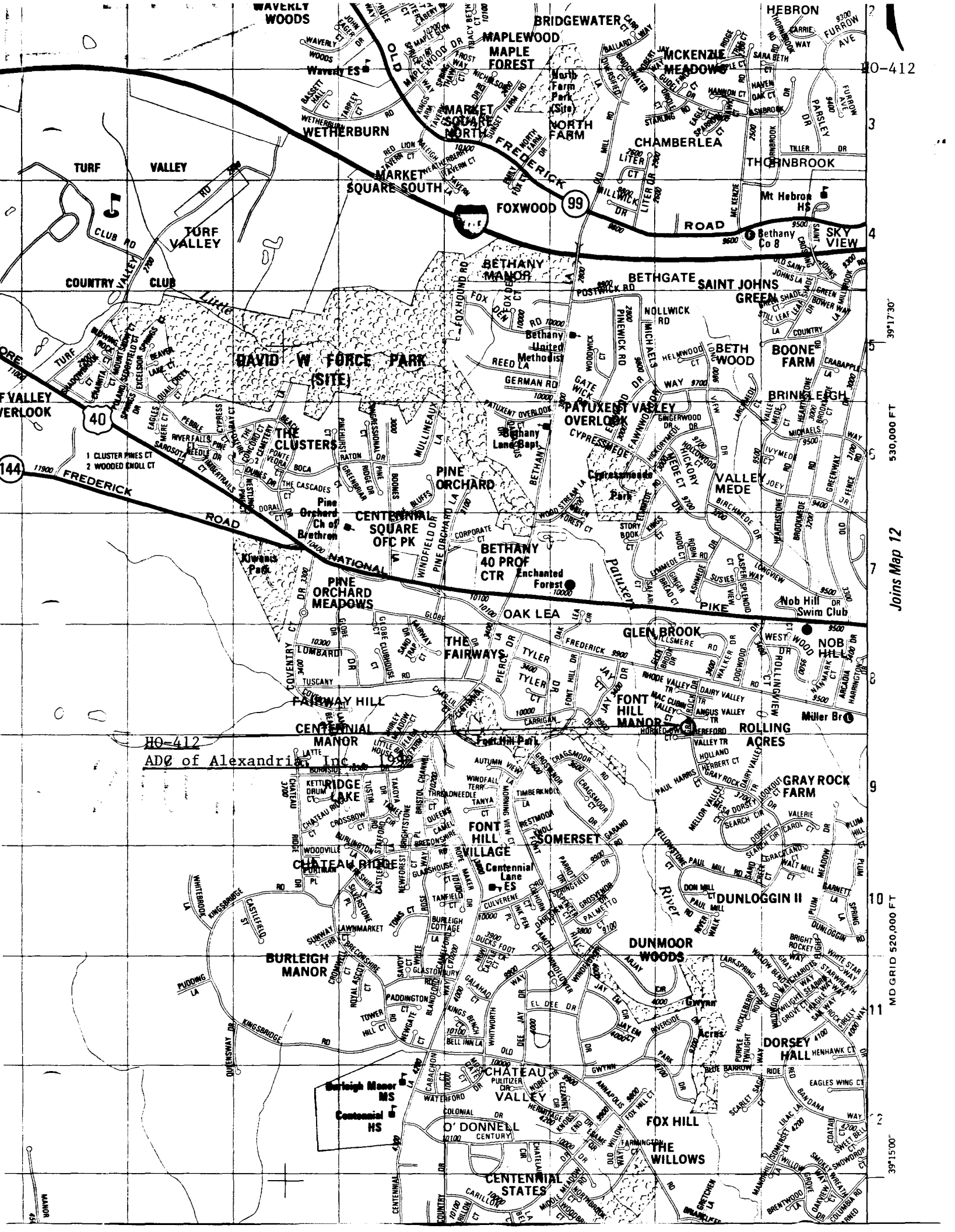


EXPLANATIONS	
Dist. & Co. Lines	-----
County Roads	-----
Private "	-----
Turnpike "	-----
Hail Roads	-----
Streams	-----
The figures along the Routes shows the distance in Rods, from junction to junction thereof	



Attachment 4  
 Gray Rock  
 HO - 412  
 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.



HO-412

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

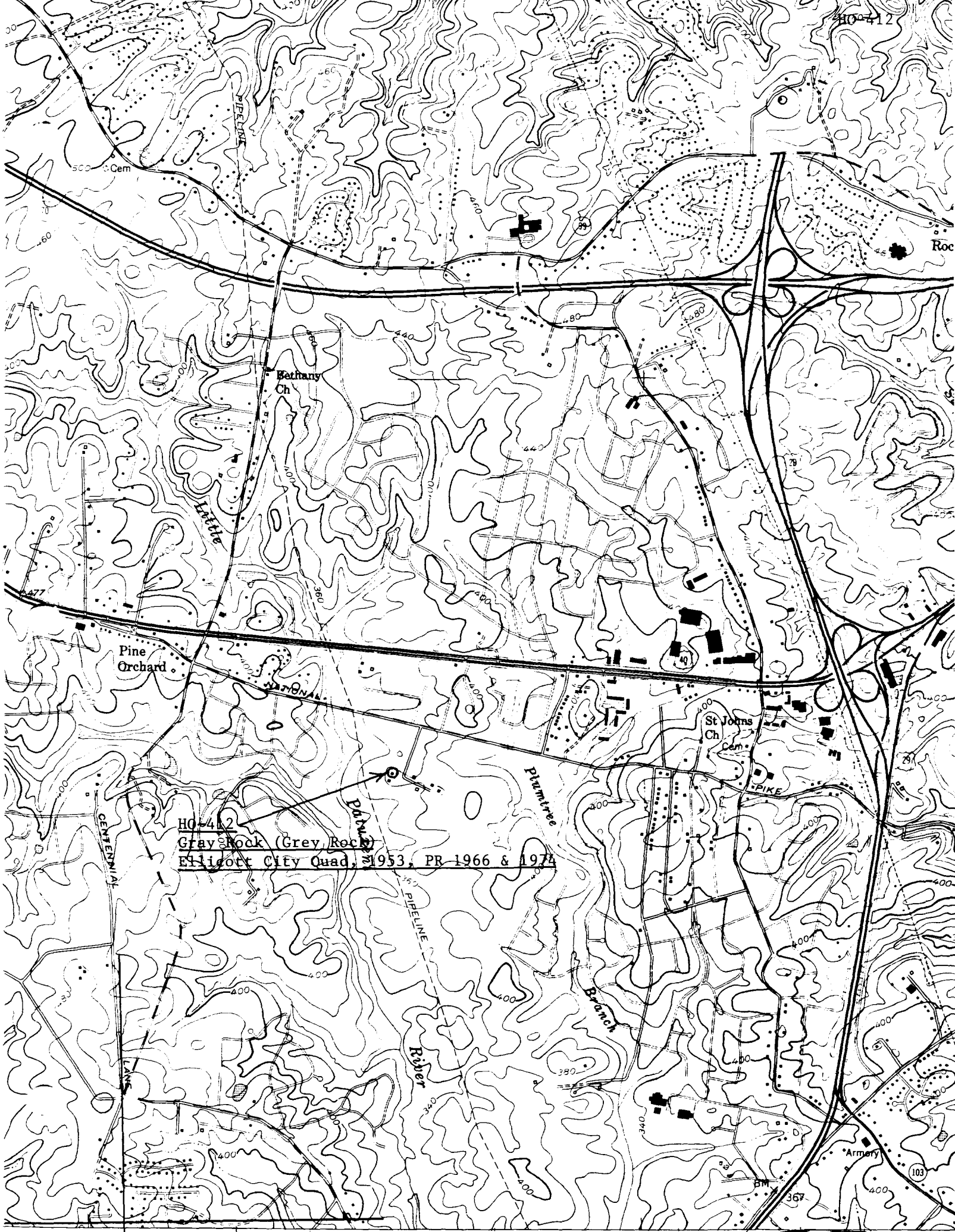
14

15

39°17'30"  
530,000 FT  
Joins Map 12

MD GRID 520,000 FT

39°15'00"



HO-412  
 Grayhook (Grey Rock)  
 Elliott City Quad, 1953, PR-1966 & 1974



CLEORA BARNES THOMPSON  
PLANNING CONSULTANT  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

GREY ROCK Ho-412  
MAY-1977



CLEORA BARNES THOMPSON  
PLANNING CONSULTANT  
HISTORICAL SERVICES

GRAY ROCK SHAVE BTR  
HO-412  
MAY-1977