

HO-454
The Knoll
6802 Norris Lane
Private

Capsule Summary

Description:

The Knoll is a 2 ½-story, three-bay by two-bay frame structure with a granite foundation of large, rough ashlar blocks on most of the structure. The first story has weatherboards fastened with cut nails and a large gambrel roof covers the second story and attic, with wood shingles on the ends and asphalt shingles on the roof. The ridge runs north-south and the house faces east. There is a slight kick where the shingles meet the weatherboards. On the west is a 1 ½-story, two-bay by one-bay ell with the same materials and gambrel roof. The east elevation has a porch beneath the gambrel roof on the first story, with paired posts at the corners and two posts in between. The north half of the elevation is recessed several feet and the north bay has a door with five lying panels. There is a window seat on the north and south sides of the recess. The first story has a stair hall entry in the northeast corner, with a parlor in the southeast corner and a dining room in the southwest side of the house, all with an open floor plan. There is a pantry and kitchen in the northwest corner, to the west of the main stairs and extending into the ell. The stair hall has a two-run stair on the west side of the room that ascends to a landing at the north, then turns to the south. There is paneling below the stringer. There is a fireplace centered on the south wall with a wood mantel. The southeast room has a fireplace on the north with a wood mantel. The second story has a hall/passage, with chambers in the northeast, southeast, and southwest corners, a bathroom over the pantry, and a chamber to the northwest, over the kitchen.

Significance:

Elizabeth Caroline Cromwell married in 1857, at age 20, Baltimore merchant and politician Charles Sidney Norris. He and Elizabeth would have two children, the second born in December 1863, just one month before C. Sidney would die. Elizabeth built the house known as Olney (HO-391) on her Ilchester property in April 1879 and she and her children lived there in the summers. They also farmed their land, though it was not profitable, nor did it need to be since she had an independent income. By the late 1880s she had decided that Olney was too large for her family, and in January 1890 she determined to build a smaller cottage, called The Knoll and rent out Olney. The Baltimore architectural firm of Wyatt and Nolting was hired to design The Knoll. Construction started in January 1890, and she noted on June 9th that the carpenters and painters were nearly finished. The Norrises generally lived at Olney while The Knoll continued to be rented over most summers. In 1919 Elizabeth's sons, Richard and Rollin Norris, cut off The Knoll on five acres and sold it to Thomas and Winifred Hays. As far as is known, the Hayses lived at The Knoll year-round and its life as a seasonal rental came to an end. The Knoll was designed like any fashionable suburban single-family home of the period and the reality of its early existence would never be hinted at without the documentation by Elizabeth Norris. The house is very much of the shingle style, with a front porch and a second story subsumed under the main roof very much like later bungalows would adopt.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-454

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic The Knoll

other

2. Location

street and number 6802 Norris Lane not for publication

city, town Elkridge X vicinity

county Howard

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

name Michael & Marisa McCurdy

street and number 6802 Norris Lane telephone

city, town Elkridge state MD zip code 21075-5728

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 15259 folio 1

city, town Ellicott City tax map 31 tax parcel 140 tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

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

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> agriculture	Contributing
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> defense	<u> 2</u> buildings
<u> </u> site		<u>X</u> domestic	<u> 0</u> sites
<u> </u> object		<u> </u> education	<u> 0</u> structures
		<u> </u> funerary	<u> 0</u> objects
		<u> </u> government	<u> 2</u> Total
		<u> </u> health care	
		<u> </u> industry	
		<u> </u> landscape	
		<u> </u> recreation/culture	
		<u> </u> religion	
		<u> </u> social	
		<u> </u> transportation	
		<u> </u> work in progress	
		<u> </u> unknown	
		<u> </u> vacant/not in use	
		<u> </u> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u> 1</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-454

Condition

☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated
☒ good	☐ ruins
☐ fair	☒ altered

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

Summary:

The Knoll is a 2 ½-story, three-bay by two-bay frame structure with a granite foundation of large, rough ashlar blocks on most of the structure. The first story has weatherboards fastened with cut nails and a large gambrel roof covers the second story and attic, with wood shingles on the ends and asphalt shingles on the roof. The ridge runs north-south and the house faces east. There is a slight kick where the shingles meet the weatherboards. On the west is a 1 ½-story, two-bay by one-bay ell with the same materials and gambrel roof. The east elevation has a porch beneath the gambrel roof on the first story, with paired posts at the corners and two posts in between. The north half of the elevation is recessed several feet and the north bay has a door with five lying panels. There is a window seat on the north and south sides of the recess. The first story has a stair hall entry in the northeast corner, with a parlor in the southeast corner and a dining room in the southwest side of the house, all with an open floor plan. There is a pantry and kitchen in the northwest corner, to the west of the main stairs and extending into the ell. The stair hall has a two-run stair on the west side of the room that ascends to a landing at the north, then turns to the south. There is paneling below the stringer. There is a fireplace centered on the south wall with a wood mantel. The southeast room has a fireplace on the north with a wood mantel. The second story has a hall/passage, with chambers in the northeast, southeast, and southwest corners, a bathroom over the pantry, and a chamber to the northwest, over the kitchen.

Description:

Note: The Knoll was undergoing major renovations and alterations during the inventory process in October 2013. No follow-up was made after work was completed.

The Knoll is located at 6802 Norris Lane, about mid-way between Ellicott City and Elkridge in eastern Howard County, Maryland. It is set on a flat spot of ground in the middle of a large lot that is wooded to the north and northeast, where it slopes down steeply toward the Patapsco River. There is a circular drive to the south of the house, with a road that runs off to the southwest, and rolling ground here that slopes down to the east. There is a house and a carriage house/stable on the property.

House, exterior

The house is a 2 ½-story, three-bay by two-bay frame structure with a granite foundation of large, rough ashlar blocks on most of the structure. The first story has weatherboards fastened with cut nails and a large gambrel roof covers the second story and attic, with wood shingles on the ends and asphalt shingles on the roof. The ridge runs north-south and the house faces east. There is a slight kick where the shingles meet the weatherboards, with a small ovolo and cavetto moulding at the break. On the west is a 1 ½-story, two-bay by one-bay ell with the same materials and gambrel roof.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-454

Name The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

The east elevation has a porch beneath the gambrel roof on the first story, with paired posts at the corners and two posts in between. The posts have ovolo mouldings on their corners. The porch has a stone foundation, wood deck, and bead-board ceiling. The south bay has a six-over-six sash with blinds that are mortised and tenoned and pinned and hung on cast iron butt hinges that have two knuckles. The shutter dogs are cast iron, in the shell pattern. The north half of the elevation is recessed several feet and the center bay has a matching six-over-six with blinds. The north bay has a door with five lying panels. There is a window seat on the north and south sides of the recess, with five turned balusters below an arm rest; they are tapered at the top and bottom. The recess of the porch has a solid wall on the north end, behind the north window seat. The second story has two gabled dormers with six-over-six sash and wood shingle siding, and they have a deep overhang at the eaves. On the gable front of each are three square vents, aligned vertically and covered by screen. There is an interior brick chimney in the center.

The south elevation has two three-light sash in the foundation. The first story has two six-over-six sash with blinds. The wall kicks out slightly where the second story shingles meet the first story, with three courses of sawtooth shingles, set closer together, at this break. The second story also has two six-over-six sash with blinds, and between the windows is a large diamond pattern in the shingles made with diamond butt shingles. The attic story has one six-over-six sash with blinds, with five small square vents above it, arranged in a cruciform pattern and now covered with screen. The eave moulding has an ogee. The west side of the roof overhangs the west wall and is supported at the southwest corner by a large bracket that has ten narrow vertical balusters running from the bracket to the eave soffit.

The west elevation of the main block is covered by the ell in the north and center bays. It has rubble stone foundation in the south bay. The first story of this bay has a door with four lights over two lying panels. A porch that was located here was just removed. The second story had a dormer that was converted to an addition above the porch, all of which has been removed. The attic is completely exposed and has two shed-roofed dormers, each with a pair of six-light casement windows.

The south elevation of the ell has a doorway in the west bay with a door that has four lights over two lying panels. The east bay has a typical six-over-six sash with blinds. The roof is cantilevered here, with bead-board soffit, most of which has been removed. The attic story has a shed-roofed dormer with two one-light casement windows.

The west elevation of the ell has a six-over-six sash on the first story, but the blinds are missing. There is a kick at the eaves line where the shingled attic story meets the first-story siding. The attic story also has a six-over-six sash, with the blinds missing. Above the window the wall swells out, creating a shallow hood with three courses of sawtooth shingles.

The north elevation of the main block and ell are in the same plane. There is rubble stone only on the ell foundation. There are two narrow vents in the foundation. The first story east and west-center bays

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-454

Name The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

each have a six-over-six sash with the blinds missing. The ell has a doorway with a new door, and the porch here, which was later enclosed as a powder room, has been removed. On the second story the east bay has a six-over-six sash with the swelled wall and sawtooth shingles above it. The blinds are missing. The east-center bay has a pair of one-light casements and also has the swelled wall with sawtooth shingles above. It, too, is missing the blinds. This opening is set lower on the wall because the stairway is behind it. The west-center bay has a typical six-over-six sash with the swell and sawtooth shingles above. The attic has a typical six-over-six sash in the center, with the swell and sawtooth shingles above, and there are five square vents above it matching the south gable end. The west-center bay of the attic has a pair of one-light casements with a one-light transom above, and this opening is also set lower on the wall. It, too, has the swell and sawtooth shingles above it. The rake board is an ogee.

House interior, first story

The first story has a stair hall entry in the northeast corner, with a parlor in the southeast corner and a dining room in the southwest side of the house, all with an open floor plan. There is a pantry and kitchen in the northwest corner, to the west of the main stairs and extending into the ell.

The stair hall has linoleum on the floor. The baseboard has a quirked ogee and bead on top and was originally varnished. All the architrave has been removed. The front door has five lying panels, is hung on foliate bronze butt hinges with finials, and has a mortise lock with brass knobs that have gadrooning. The walls are lath and plaster. There is a fireplace centered on the south wall that has a brick hearth, splayed brick jambs, and the back of the firebox is missing its outer wythe of brick. There is a slate surround, and a wood mantel that has short "Gothik" columns with brackets above, and with reeding on the frieze. The window on the east has 10-inch by 14-inch lights with ovolo muntins, is mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners and between one muntin and the rails and is hung on cylindrical cast iron weights. The north window matches, but the lights are 13 ½ inches tall and 14 ½ inches wide. There is a two-run stair on the west side of the room that ascends to a landing at the north, then turns to the south. It is built of pine that is natural and varnished and has an open stringer with battens at the edge of each riser and below each tread. The balusters are rectangular in plan and the newel is square, with chamfered corners and a squat finial on top. The handrail has a toad-back profile, with an ovolo and cavetto on each side, toward the bottom. There is paneling below the stringer that is sunken and flat, with quirked Greek ovolo-and-bead panel moulds. There is a door below the landing, with three lying panels, that leads to a closet. It has plain bronze butt hinges with ball finials. The wall is open here above the stair stringer, with a varnished pine post and beam that have beaded corners. The back wall of the stairs and the landing have half paneling that is sunken and flat, with small, quirked ogee-and-bevel panel moulds. There are two doorways on the south and one on the west walls of this room, and the doors have been removed.

The southeast room flooring is now covered. The baseboard matches that in the stair hall and was originally varnished. One piece was removed, and the flat board was fastened with cut nails but a

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-454

Name The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 3

beveled lap joint in the center and the top moulding were both fastened together with smaller wire nails. The architrave was nailed to the jamb boards with small wire nails; it has all been removed. The east and south windows have lights that are 13 ½ inches tall and 14 ½ inches wide. There is a wide opening on the west that had hinged doors that have been removed. On the north is a fireplace with a brick hearth that has been deepened. There are splayed brick jambs and some of the brick at the back of the firebox has been removed and more is damaged at the bottom. There is a slate surround that is cut out at the top, probably for the existing Latrobe stove sitting on the hearth. The stove is labeled "Bartlett Hayward Co. Balto. MD," "Windsor," and "Imp'd 1897." There is a wood mantel that is identical to the mantel in the stair hall. Above the mantel is a neoclassical mirror with a gold frame and beveled glass. The west jamb of the chimney stack has a cast iron heating grate, set high on the wall.

The southwest room floor, baseboard, architrave, and south window match the other rooms. The northwest corner contains a fireplace that had been closed and the mantel removed. It has a segmentally arched opening and was completely demolished, during recordation, to enlarge the room. There is a door on the west that has four lights over two lying panels, and butt hinges with ball finials. The architrave here was laid over plaster rather than on jamb studs, suggesting that it was a later addition or alteration. All the removed architrave is stored in this room. It is mitered at the corners and has a plain fascia for a backband, with a bead to the inside, then three very flat ogees and a small cavetto on the inner edge. Most of this material only has wire nails but some has cut nails. All of it appears to have the same profile. The ceiling had a small medallion that has been removed. There is a doorway to the pantry on the north wall. It has wire nails in the jamb board that held the architrave, and one cut nail that held the outer edge of the architrave to a stud. A plaster screed is nailed to the stud with cut nails. Chair rail and cornice have been added to the room.

The pantry has linoleum on the floor, has typical baseboard, and the architrave has been removed. There is a drop ceiling and a chimney in the southwest corner. The window has 10-inch by 14-inch lights. On the west wall are the remains of the top half of a cupboard that had two pair of doors and four shelves. There is a bracket below the bottom shelf, cut with the profile of an ogee above an ovolo. On the east is a closet with a hatch cut into the floor to the basement. It is located under the main stairs and has three shelves on the south and east sides. Beneath the floor was originally a crawl space that was excavated later.

The northwest room was a kitchen. It also has linoleum on the floor and most of the baseboard has been removed. The south and west windows are typical, the former with 10-inch by 14-inch lights and the latter with 10-inch by 12-inch lights. The exterior walls have been covered with drywall. The studs are toenailed to the girt with cut nails, being driven downward from the plate, and there is cross-bracing between the studs, also fastened with cut nails. All the material is circular-sawn. There is an open winder stair in the northwest corner that has rectangular balusters with a natural finish.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-454

Name The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 4

House interior, second story

The stair landing window is a pair of one-light casements, and the opening retains its architrave, which is typical and is varnished.

The second story has a hall/passage, with chambers in the northeast, southeast, and southwest corners, a bathroom over the pantry, and a chamber to the northwest, over the kitchen.

The passage has typical baseboard and architrave that is varnished, and five-lying-panel doors that are also varnished. They are hung on brass butt hinges that have pins with finials and have brass mortise locks with wood knobs. The stairs continue up to a landing on the north, to the attic, with the same details except that there is no half-paneling. There is a closet on the north, to the east of the stairs.

The bathroom has linoleum on the floor and bead-board half wainscot of random-width pine that is varnished and has a quirked Greek ovolo-and-bead moulding on the top. There is a clawfoot bathtub and a new water closet. There is a marble-top sink that has an ogee moulding on the edge and a marble splash-back. It is supported on iron brackets and there is a pine medicine cabinet with a mirror hung on the wall over the sink. The west wall has a doorway to the west chamber.

The southwest chamber also has typical baseboard and architrave, which is varnished. There is a closet in the southwest corner and a fireplace was in the northwest corner but has already been taken out. A window on the south has 12-inch by 14-inch lights. The west wall was opened for the sunroom addition, which has now been removed. The ceiling is presently being removed, exposing the joists which are 2 ¼ inches by 9 ½ inches and have cross-bracing.

The southeast chamber flooring is covered, and the ceiling is completely down. The windows have 12-inch by 14-inch lights and the east one is a dormer. There is a closet to the north of this window and the wall here has been stripped of plaster. On the north is a fireplace in the center, with a doorway to each side. The fireplace has a brick hearth, parged surround, splayed brick jambs, and a varnished pine mantel that has reeding on the pilasters and frieze, brackets with fluting above the pilasters, and a bed mould with dentils and a quirked Greek ovolo-and-bead above them. There is a door on the west, to the southwest chamber.

The northeast chamber also has typical architrave that is varnished. The windows have 12-inch by 14-inch lights and there is a closet on the north side of the east dormer. The studs throughout this story are true 2 by 4s that are spaced 15 ½ to 16 ½ inches on centers, with diagonal 1-inch by 6 ¾-inch board bracing that is let into the faces of the studs. The exterior sheathing is horizontal boards. The rafters are 2 ¼ inches by 6 inches, spaced 16 inches on centers, and are miter cut at the foot and set on the plate. They are mitered and butted at the ridge and support board sheathing that is butted below the collars but

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-454

Name The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 5

is set with gaps between them above the collars. The collar beams are lapped and nailed to the rafters and not let into them.

The west chamber has typical architrave on the south dormer window, which has two one-light casements. There is a stair in the northwest corner that has a varnished door with five lying panels. The north wall has a knee wall with two small closets behind it. The ceiling is set on the collar beams. the west wall has diagonal exterior sheathing.

House interior, attic

The attic landing has a pair of one-light casement windows with a one-light transom that is hinged at the bottom on butt hinges with three knuckles. At the top of the stairs the landing has paired six-light casements in a dormer window.

There are two finished chambers in the attic, in the northeast and southeast corners. There is a closet on the west side of the attic passage. The northeast attic chamber flooring is 2 ½-inch tongue-and-grooved pine that runs north-south. The north window is a pair of six-light casements that are set one above the other and hinged on the west jamb with bronze butt hinges that have ball finials. The sash are pinned and are constructed to imitate a double-hung sash, with a faux meeting rail that is cut to lap the top sash. The bottom sash opens in first, then the top sash. The west wall has a 3-inch by 4-inch down-brace from the north wall. The studs are also 3 by 4 inches and are crippled at the brace. There is a chimney on the south that has a stove pipe thimble. To the west of the chimney is a four-panel door that has sunken double fields and ogee panel moulds. It is varnished pine and has brass butt hinges with finials that match the second story, and a mortise lock and knob that also match the second story. The architrave for this doorway is also typical. The ceiling follows the rafters and collar beams and has cut lath nails. There are board struts from the collars up to the rafters; they are lapped and fastened with cut nails. The ridge has a ridge beam.

The southeast attic chamber flooring matches the northeast attic. There was a closet on the west, but the walls have been stripped of lath and plaster and in the process, it was removed. The south window is a six-over-six sash with 10-inch by 12-inch lights and is mortised and tenoned and pinned, with two pins in the corners and one in each end of a muntin. The dormer window on the west has a pair of six-light casements that are mortised and tenoned and pinned and are varnished. They have 7-inch by 7 ½-inch lights with ovolo muntins. The floor joists on the east are set on top of the stud wall, with a rafter lapped and nailed to the side of it with several large cut spikes that pass through the wood and are clinched.

Carriage House / Stable

The carriage house/stable is located about 150 feet northwest of the house and downhill from it. It is a two-story, two-bay by one-bay frame structure with a rubble stone foundation, German siding, and a gable roof with corrugated metal and an east-west ridge.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-454

Name The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 6

The south elevation has a tongue-and-grooved vertical-board Dutch door in the center of the first story. The east bay has a beaded vertical-board door hung on rollers. There is a porch subsumed under a cantilevered roof overhang supported by new posts. The second story has no opening because the roof slopes down to cover the overhang. The east elevation has no opening on the first story. The second story has a short vertical-board door hung on strap hinges inside of the roof overhang. The gable end has a six-light sash. On the west elevation the first story has three boarded-over openings set low on the wall, with three small openings above that containing hardware cloth. The openings do not align. The south bay opening is taller, and the three small openings are set to the north of it. The second story has no opening, and the gable end has a six-light sash. The north elevation has a small, boarded-up opening set low on the wall in the center of the first story and a small opening with hardware cloth above it. There is a window in the east bay that is also boarded up. There are no openings in the second story.

The interior has one open room at present but originally was divided in half by a north-south partition wall, creating a carriage room on the eastern half and stables in the western half. Part of this wall survives at the north end, with a built-in closet that has tongue-and-grooved vertical boards. There is a four-panel door on the west side that has sunken double fields and quirked ogee-and-fillet panel moulds. One stud for this wall has cut nails and one of them has an augmented head with a round, domed augmentation. There is a concrete floor that retains impressions of what were probably two stalls on the west. The south door has machine-made strap hinges. There is a built-in ladder to the west of this door, leading to a hatch in the floor of the second story. The second-story joists are circular-sawn true 2 by 10s that run north-south and rest on ledger boards that are let into the studs, except over the carriage door, where joist hangers are used. The studs are circular-sawn true 2 by 4s and the siding is also circular-sawn. The north wall window is a six-over-six sash that is not mortised and tenoned and pinned. There is a hatch in the second-story southwest corner floor that was probably a hay chute from the upper story. The corner posts are true 4 by 4s and it is all nailed construction.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-454

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

Specific dates	N/A	Architect/Builder	Wyatt & Nolting
Construction dates	1890		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

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

Summary:

Elizabeth Caroline Cromwell married in 1857, at age 20, Baltimore merchant and politician Charles Sidney Norris. He and Elizabeth would have two children, the second born in December 1863, just one month before C. Sidney would die. Elizabeth built the house known as Olney (HO-391) on her Ilchester property in April 1879 and she and her children lived there in the summers. They also farmed their land, though it was not profitable, nor did it need to be since she had an independent income. By the late 1880s she had decided that Olney was too large for her family, and in January 1890 she determined to build a smaller cottage, called The Knoll and rent out Olney. The Baltimore architectural firm of Wyatt and Nolting was hired to design The Knoll. Construction started in January 1890, and she noted on June 9th that the carpenters and painters were nearly finished. The Norrises generally lived at Olney while The Knoll continued to be rented over most summers. In 1919 Elizabeth's sons, Richard and Rollin Norris, cut off The Knoll on five acres and sold it to Thomas and Winifred Hays. As far as is known, the Hayses lived at The Knoll year-round and its life as a seasonal rental came to an end. The Knoll was designed like any fashionable suburban single-family home of the period and the reality of its early existence would never be hinted at without the documentation by Elizabeth Norris. The house is very much of the shingle style, with a front porch and a second story subsumed under the main roof very much like later bungalows would adopt.

Significance:

Elizabeth Caroline Cromwell (1837-1908) married in 1857, at age 20, Baltimore merchant and politician Charles Sidney Norris (1816-1864) who was 20 years her senior. Norris's first wife, Ellen Kent (nee Stansbury), had died two years earlier, leaving him with three children. His business was in hardware and he would shortly build a marble-fronted store and warehouse on Hanover Street for his enterprise. He and Elizabeth would have two children, the second born in December 1863, just one month before C. Sidney would die of typhoid fever. In his will C. Sidney left money to Richard Cromwell, in trust for his widow, and in April 1879 Cromwell purchased three adjacent tracts near Ilchester that totaled just under 150 acres, for Elizabeth. Elizabeth built the house known as Olney (HO-391) on this property in

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-454

Name The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

April 1879 and she and her children lived there in the summers. They also farmed their land, though it was not profitable, nor did it need to be since she had an independent income. She noted in 1890: "Hills so steep that ploughing them causes the soil to wash off, down into the river." Perhaps as a result, and with her children growing up and moving away, by the late 1880s she had decided that Olney was too large for her family. In 1888 she rented the house to Leonidas Levering for the summer while she went to Europe, hoping that she could entice the Leverings to buy a lot from her and build their own summer house. The following summer the Leverings boarded at Olney and then proceeded to purchase two acres from Elizabeth, where they built a house that she described as "New style, all covered with stained shingles." Her plan to develop Olney with select customers was beginning to take off and in January 1890 she determined to build a smaller cottage, originally to be named Edgehill but later called The Knoll, "... on the point overlooking Orange Grove." She hoped to move into the new cottage for the summer and rent out Olney again, trying to entice another family to buy and build, since she did not want to sell Olney despite her belief that it was too large for her family. But she also realized that the process was a slow one and she chose a two-pronged approach, building some houses on lots she created in part to try to speed it along. Fortunately for posterity, she kept a partial record of her enterprise.¹

In January 1890 she noted: "We start to build 'The Knoll' for \$2000 allowing for \$3000 to cover all expenses – furniture, water ram &c. – Will we accomplish it?" Her son, Richard Norris, was an engineer and intended to do as much work as he could with his own laborers and horses, including installing one or two water rams to pump water up the hill. Elizabeth and Richard met with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad agent in Baltimore to try to get their building supplies shipped at half the freight cost, but they also pushed for a station at Orange Grove as well as a bridge across the Patapsco wide enough for vehicles, which would improve their chances of developing the farm. They made it clear that such improvements would bring development, which would in turn increase revenue for the railroad, which the agent could appreciate. The Baltimore architectural firm of Wyatt and Nolting was hired to design The Knoll, charging five percent for their work with no oversight on construction. J. B. Noel Wyatt was the son of a Baltimore civil engineer and studied at Harvard University and then at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's new architectural department. After three years of further study and practice in Paris, Wyatt returned to Baltimore to work in the office of E. Francis Baldwin in 1874. Two years later Wyatt opened his own office in partnership with Joseph Evans Sperry, and after Sperry left Baltimore Wyatt took William G. Nolting as his partner. Nolting was 19 years his junior and had

¹ U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 3, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1850. U. S. Bureau of the Census, 20th ward, Baltimore City, 1850. U. S. Bureau of the Census, 12th ward, Baltimore City, 1860. U. S. Bureau of the Census, 20th ward, Baltimore City, 1860. Jim Higgins, "Some Genealogy of the Family of Elizabeth," typescript, c. 2013. *Baltimore Sun*, 12 July 1860, p. 1. *Baltimore American*, 8 January 1864, p. 4. Norris is buried in Greenmount Cemetery in Baltimore. Elizabeth's father and brother were both named Richard and it is not certain which one served as trustee, though it was probably her brother. Her father was listed as a farmer, in Anne Arundel County in 1850 and in Baltimore City in 1860, at which time his real estate was valued at \$50,000. Her brother was listed as a 26-year-old merchant in 1860. After Norris's death, his business was taken over by Richard Cromwell and John S. Norris. See *Baltimore American*, 25 February 1864, p. 2, and *Baltimore Sun*, 12 April 1864, p. 1.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-454

Name The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

learned his trade through apprenticeships with architectural firms in Richmond and Washington, DC, most notably with Hornblower & Marshall. The partnership was one of the most significant architectural firms in Baltimore in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and their most notable commissions included St. Michael and All Angels Church, the Mercantile Safe Deposit and Trust Company Building, and the Baltimore City Courthouse. The Norrises hired a stonemason who agreed to "blast" granite for \$1.50 per day and lay the stone foundation walls at \$3.50 per day, and they intended to use stock windows, doors, and mouldings to keep down the cost of construction. Elizabeth was thoroughly involved in the building process, which she found "... so very interesting," and was kept "... busy driving to Ilchester to have drills sharpened." By early February the ground was graded, most of the work being done by men the Norrises had under their employ, and with their own teams of horses. They then laid out the exact location for the house "... in what we thought the best place to make as much lawn as possible & still leave room for wood shed & summer kitchen & for wagon to pass around behind. To save cutting up the lawn we propose having no drive to the front porch."²

While the construction on The Knoll continued, the Norrises were busy also with either renting or selling Olney, the money from which would help to pay for the construction, and in dealing with the railroad. Mr. Richards with the B. & O. agreed to build a station at Orange Grove and the Norrises pledged \$1,000 toward a new bridge. These improvements were important because, whether renting or buying, prospective clients would be coming out of Baltimore on the railroad and needed as convenient a connection as possible. The petition for a bridge requested money from both counties to pay for it and was opposed by the western sections of Howard County and parts of Baltimore County; it ultimately failed. What impact this might have had on Elizabeth's development schemes is uncertain. Elizabeth loved Olney and did not want to sell it but realized the smaller house at The Knoll would make her family less dependent on servants, thus simplifying life. The only servant who is clearly identified is the cook, "Old Lydia" Brown, whom Elizabeth noted in 1906 had been "... now 49 years in my kitchen." Lydia Brown's birthday was given as 1830 but it is not known whether she was enslaved or free when she came to work for the Norrises in the 1850s. If the Norrises were to rent Olney to a summer tenant, they would need to be out of the house by June 1st, which meant The Knoll needed to be substantially completed by then for them to move over. By early May Elizabeth had succeeded in renting out Olney for four months; included in the price was fresh milk, cream, butter, and fruits and vegetables from off the farm. She also rented The Knoll to another family, apparently with the intention that her family would share it for several months; the house was apparently built with two kitchens in order to make this feasible. In addition to the fine views, cool shade, and fresh air, provisions, taken from off the farm continued to be part of the draw for renters. Richard Norris advertised in May 1901, "For rent - for

² Elizabeth Cromwell Norris, Diary, January 1890-April 1906. Location of original unknown. Copy in possession of author. Hereafter, Norris Diary. Bill Pencek, "James Bosley Noel Wyatt," typescript, October 1992. Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*, (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956), pp. 443-44, 674-75.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-454

Name The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

summer – furnished cottage; modern conveniences; vegetables, milk, ice, wood for open fires; grounds cared for; high, fine view; shade . . . ”³

By the middle of March, the stone foundation walls were finished, and carloads of lumber were being hauled to the site, though frequent rains were delaying progress. Nonetheless, late in the month the walls were being framed and by April 5th the rafters on the kitchen ell had been raised, the fireplaces had been built, and one chimney was rising. Elizabeth was away from the building site periodically so did not record daily progress but noted the changes that had been made each time she returned home. On the 16th she noted that both chimneys had been completed, the roof was sheathed, and the walls weatherboarded to the second story. Five days later half of the roof had been shingled and Richard had driven “to town” for plaster lath, hoping to begin plastering very soon. By May 8th the finish coat of plaster had been laid on the first story and the front porch was nearly complete. Within a few days the second story was receiving a second coat of plaster and the kitchen porch was being built. Family and friends who visited the building site at this time did not believe The Knoll would be ready by June 1st, but Elizabeth moved her family in on the 4th since her tenant was not ready to move into Olney any earlier. Even still, she noted on June 9th that the carpenters and painters were nearly finished. She did not report on when they left but noted two years later: “The Knoll was such a success that we are now building Banavie up by the barn.” In early May, 1890, Elizabeth had also noted that excavation of the foundation was to be started on the “annex.” In early June the stone piers for it were being built and she noted that it was going to cost “. . . far more than we expected – we thought \$200 about.” No more mention was made of it, including where exactly it was located and what it was used for. However, aerial photographs show what appears to be a one-story building to the north of the ell. Presumably, this was it, and though it had been demolished prior to site inspection it was clear that it was built after the north wall of the ell had been completed and was connected to it at some point. This may have been intended to accommodate the second kitchen and may have been an afterthought spurred by the fluctuating nature of Elizabeth’s rental business. The Knoll was rented by a Dr. Chew for at least several summers and the Norrises lived at Olney during that time, though they still hoped to move into The Knoll full time. However, it appears that it was easier to rent out The Knoll, and after Dr. Chew a Mrs. Corner rented it for many summers.⁴

The Knoll continued to be rented over most summers, along with the other houses, but it is not clear where the Norrises lived; it seems that they were peripatetic, moving from one house to another based on who was renting where and for how long, and at what amount. The work of periodic moving, and the requisite cleaning, fell primarily on the servants. The Norrises furnished all three houses, with Elizabeth purchasing old mahogany furniture in the early 1890s, and occasionally the renters brought some

³ Norris Diary. “Opposing a Bridge Scheme.” *Baltimore Sun*, 17 June 1891, supplement, p. 2. U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 1, Howard County, Maryland, 1900. *Washington, D. C. Evening Star*, 28 May 1901, p. 5.

⁴ Norris Diary.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-454

Name The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

furniture with them. The Knoll was also rented for at least one winter, c. 1905, and Elizabeth installed stoves to heat it since it had generally only been intended as a summer place. Presumably, the existing parlor stove, with a patent date of 1897, is one of those Elizabeth added. Elizabeth also provided a boarding house for invalids. This most likely occurred at Olney, not The Knoll, though it is difficult to separate the history of the three properties given that they were all part of a single economic strategy. It is clear from her occasional diary that Elizabeth ran the operation, from planning to funding to implementation, though not without help from her son Richard. Elizabeth deeded The Knoll (along with the other two houses) to her two sons, Richard, and Rollin, in 1904, while retaining a life estate in the property. Richard married in 1906 and continued to live at Olney with his mother and unmarried sister, both of whom died there in 1908, but Richard continued to try to rent the houses out, advertising in May, 1909: "For rent – for season or by year, with privilege of buying – One of my two handsomely furnished houses on farm eleven miles from Baltimore." The two houses were presumably Banavie (HO-541) and The Knoll. In 1919 Richard and Rollin Norris cut off The Knoll on five acres and sold it to Thomas and Winifred Hays.⁵

Thomas Hays was listed in the 1920 census as a 46-year-old lawyer and he and Winifred, 13 years his junior, were listed next to Richard Norris. Ten years later they were listed next to Richard's widow. As far as is known, the Hayses lived at The Knoll year-round and its life as a seasonal rental came to an end. Except for the two kitchens, which is no longer visible in the house, The Knoll was designed like any fashionable suburban single-family home of the period and the reality of its early existence would never be hinted at without the documentation by Elizabeth Norris. The house is very much of the shingle style, with a front porch and a second story subsumed under the main roof very much like later bungalows would adopt. This massing, barely broken by a slight kick at the base of the second story and by swellings over the windows that are only accented with several small courses of decorative shingles, are typical of the handling of this style and are in marked contrast to the other popular style at this time in the United States, the Queen Anne. Though also typically shingled, the latter was much more asymmetrical and fussy, with bays, bows, turrets, and classical or Colonial Revival ornament, all of which was meant to break up the massing of the building. The detailing and finishes of The Knoll are more typically Arts and Crafts in character, with a historicist feel while eschewing overtly historical ornament. The windows, for example, are primarily six-over-six sash as would be found in early houses, but with lights that are larger than would typically be found on earlier period sash. The shingle style has been described by architectural historian Vincent Scully as the architecture of the American summer, and given the history of The Knoll, no other style would have been so appropriate. The plan was not as open as the most Avant Garde houses of the period but nonetheless employed a large entrance stair hall with fireplace, and wide doorways into the adjoining parlor and dining room. Also worth noting is that the building is constructed with both older cut nails and the new wire nails, often used side-by-side, which helps to date the change in this building material. The Hays family added

⁵ Norris Diary. *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 14 October 1906, p. 11. *Baltimore Sun*, 13 April 1908, p. 9. *Baltimore Sun*, 26 May 1908, p. 7. *Washington, D. C. Evening Star*, 19 May 1909, p. 17.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-454

Name The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

some acreage to The Knoll in 1943 and sold the house in 1970. At an unknown date an addition, probably for a bathroom, was made on the roof of the rear porch. The Knoll was purchased in 2013 and a substantial renovation was initiated that removed the addition and removed the corner fireplace and chimney stack in the dining room, which had been closed off, with the mantel removed, at an unknown date. Lath and plaster were removed from the walls, at least on the second story and attic, woodwork was removed, reportedly to be stripped of paint, and some doorways were widened. The existing addition on the north side of the ell was taken down and replaced with an entirely new one. The full extent of the changes is not known since the building was not re-visited following examination during the work, but the historic integrity has certainly been compromised.⁶

⁶ U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 1, Howard County, Maryland, 1920, 1930. Vincent Scully, Jr., *The Shingle Style: Architectural Theory and Design from Richardson to the Origins of Wright* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1955). Vincent Scully, Jr., *Architecture of the American Summer: The Flowering of the Shingle Style* (New York: Rizzoli, 1989).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-454

See footnotes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 5.354 A

Acreage of historical setting 5.354 A

Quadrangle name Relay

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the outlines of the property, tax map 31, parcel 140, which encompasses all of the historic buildings and features on the site.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Ken Short

organization Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning date October 2023

street & number 3430 Courthouse Drive telephone 410-313-4335

city or town Ellicott City state MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

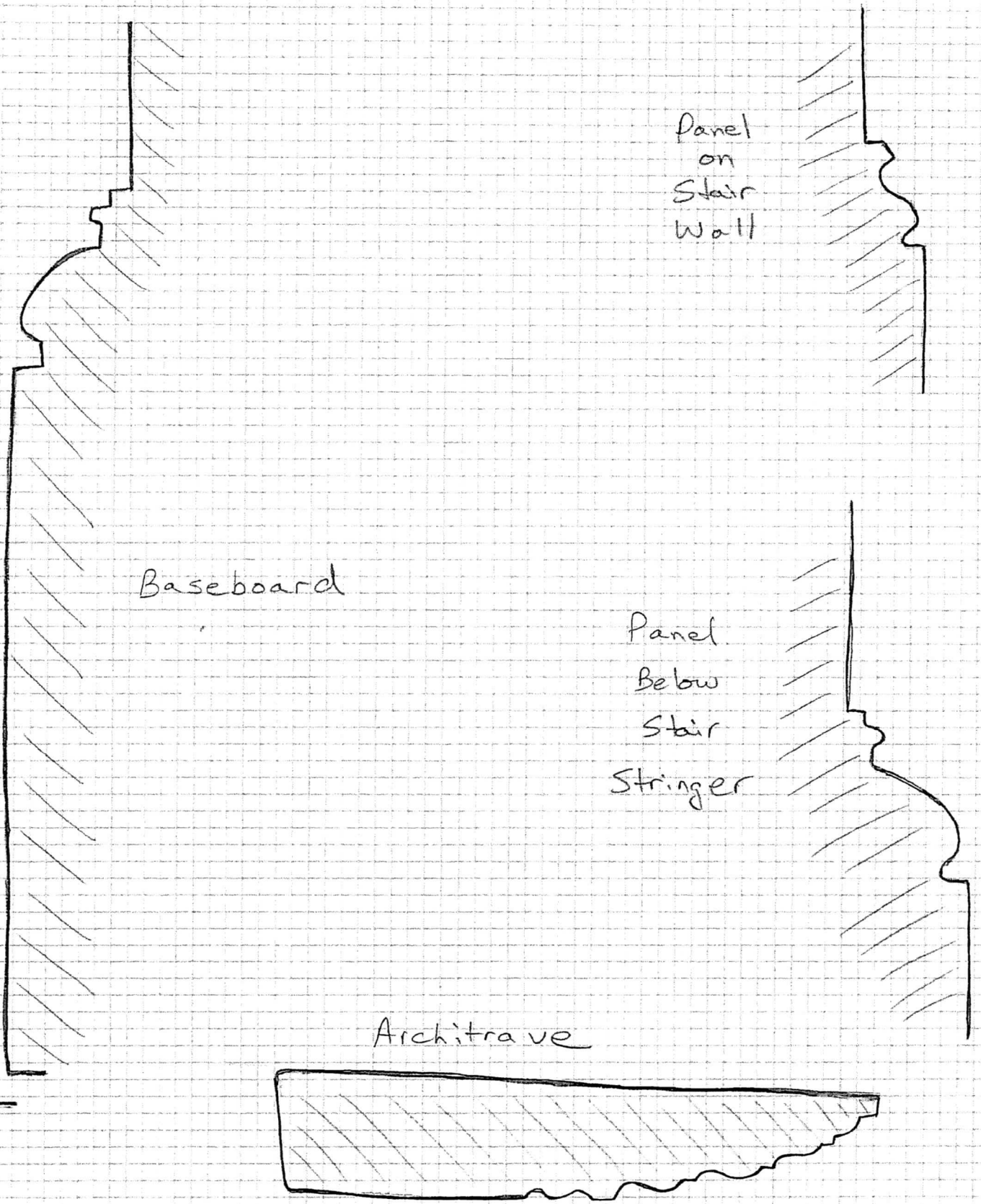
The Knoll (HO-454)
6802 Norris Lane
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSID- ERATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Joan T. Hoffman, surviving tenant / ?	Michael T. McCurdy & Marisa C. McCurdy, H & W / ?	6 September 2013	WAR 15259-1	Deed – fee simple	\$710,000	5.354 A	C.E.H. d. 27 January 1985
Winifred D. M. Hays, widow Thomas A. Hays, V (son) / Howard Co	Charles E. Hoffman & wife Joan T. / ?	6 May 1970	CMP 531-619	Deed – fee simple	\$5.00	5.354 A	2 deeds T.A.H., Jr. dec'd "The Knoll Cottage"
Rollin Norris, widower / Litchfield Co., CT	Thomas A. Hays, V & his mother Winifred D. M. Hays / Howard Co	28 September 1943	BM, Jr. 179-179	Deed – fee simple	\$1.00	a. 8.84 A b. .55 A	2 tracts p/o 40-592, p/o 79-388 R.C.N. d.16 September 1927 Will MFB 7-51 See 173-527 (2)
Richard C. Norris & wife Julia P. / Howard Co Rollin Norris & wife Katherine H. / Montgomery Co., PA	Thomas A. Hays, Jr., & wife Winifred D. M. / Howard Co	30 April 1919	HBN 107-245	Deed – fee simple	\$10.00	5 A±	E.C.N dec'd. (1)
Richard Cromwell, trustee Elizabeth Cromwell Norris	Richard C. Norris Rollin Norris Elizabeth Cromwell Norris, mother, life estate	15 July 1904	WWLC 79-388	Deed – ?	–	≈ 130 A in Ho Co & lot on Hanover St., Baltimore City	C. Sidney Norris of Baltimore City, late husband of E. C. Norris, gave property to Richard Cromwell as trustee for E.C. N., will JPC 31-371 Daughter Elizabeth C. Norris, Jr., gets \$1,500 instead of part of property. (1)
Amos Earp, widower / Howard Co	Richard Cromwell, trustee / Baltimore Co.	10 April 1879	LJW 40-592	Deed – fee simple	\$6,000	x. 88 ¾ A y. 35 ½ A z. 28-1-20 ARP – 3 ½ A	C. Sidney Norris will, dated 25 December 1863. Cromwell purchasing it as authorized by this will 3 adjacent tracts (x) adjoins Belmont & Ellicott's tract

1/2

The Knoll Moulding Profiles

KMS
4 Oct. 2013

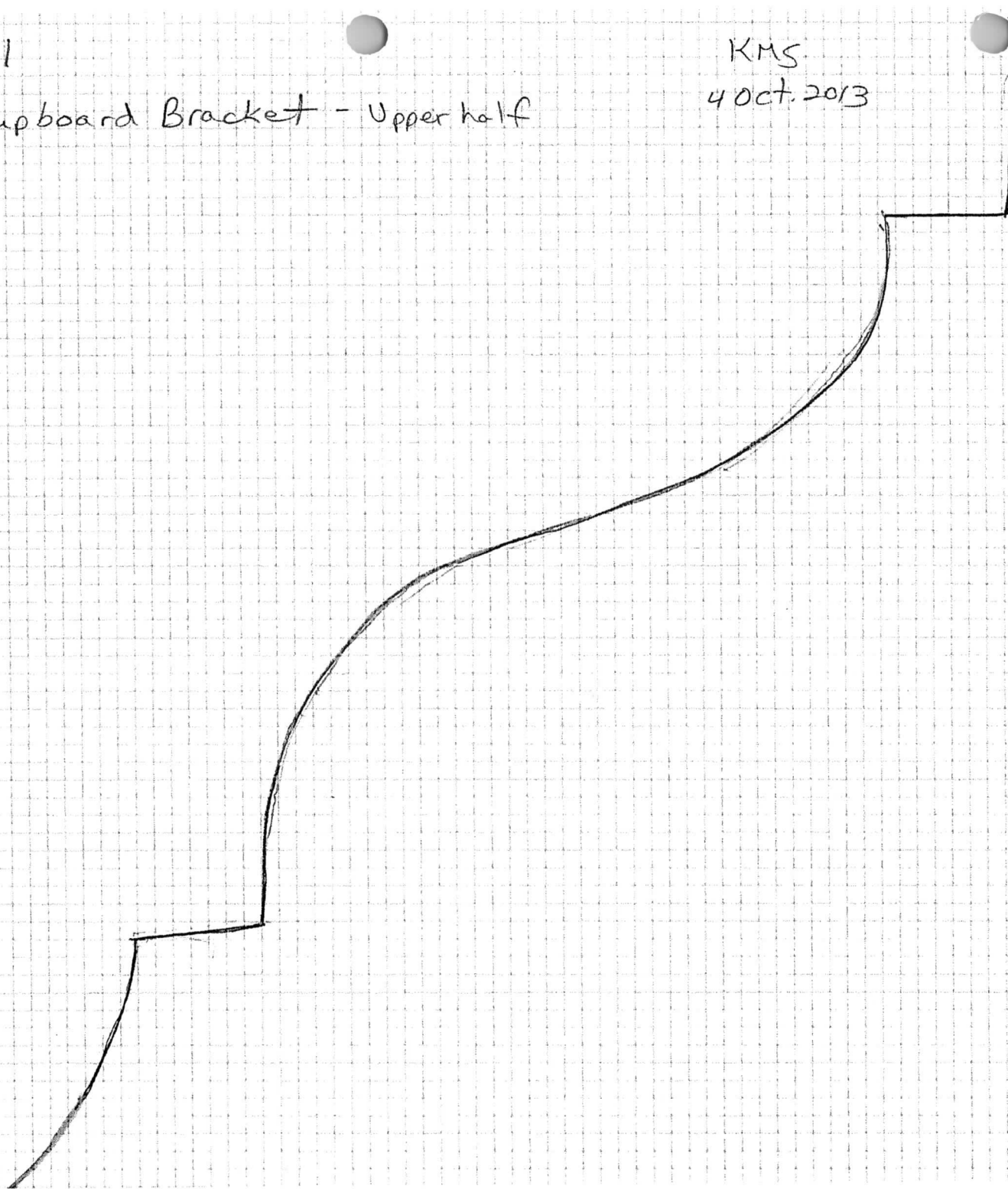


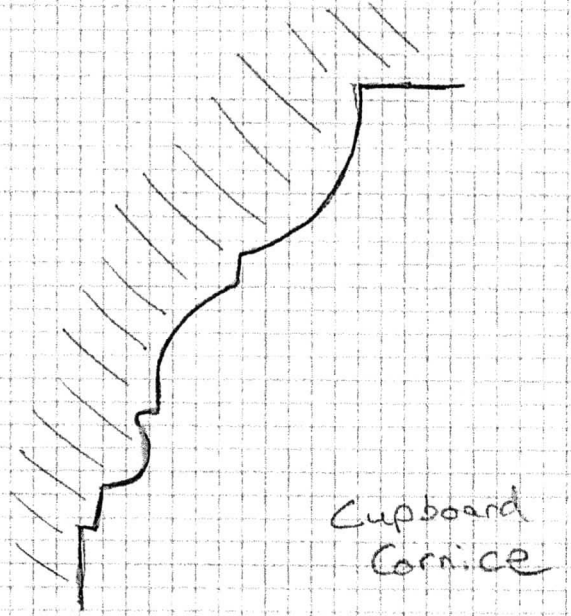
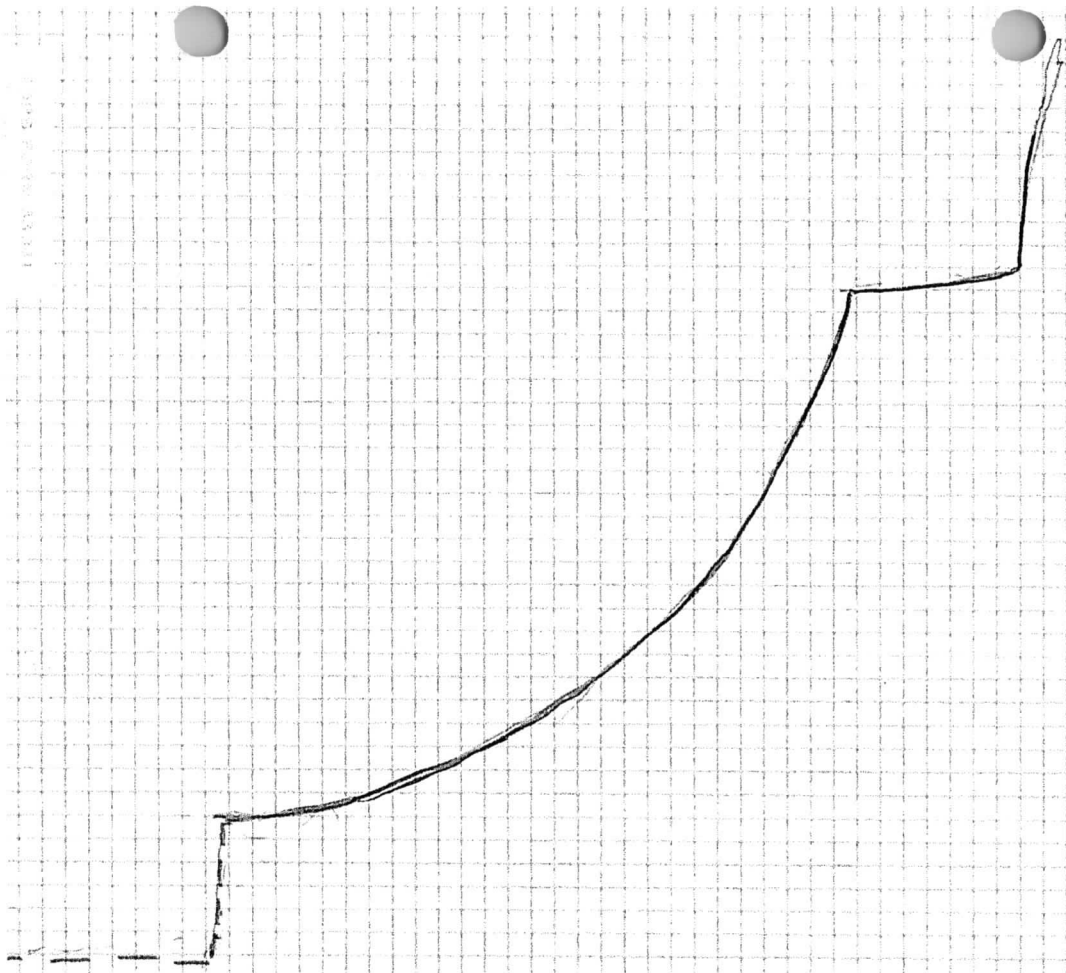
2A/2

The Knoll

Pantry Cupboard Bracket - Upper half

KMS
4 Oct. 2013

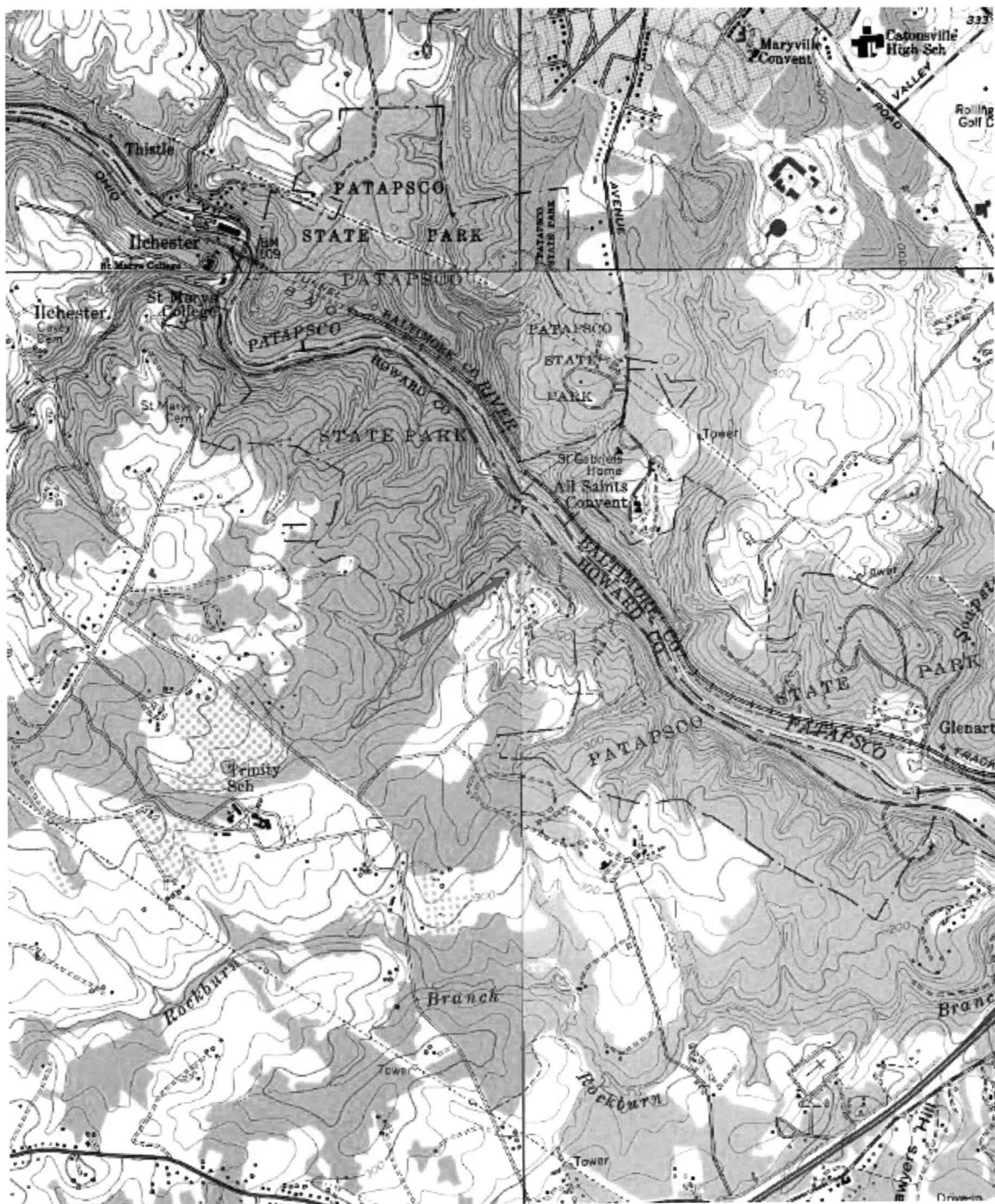




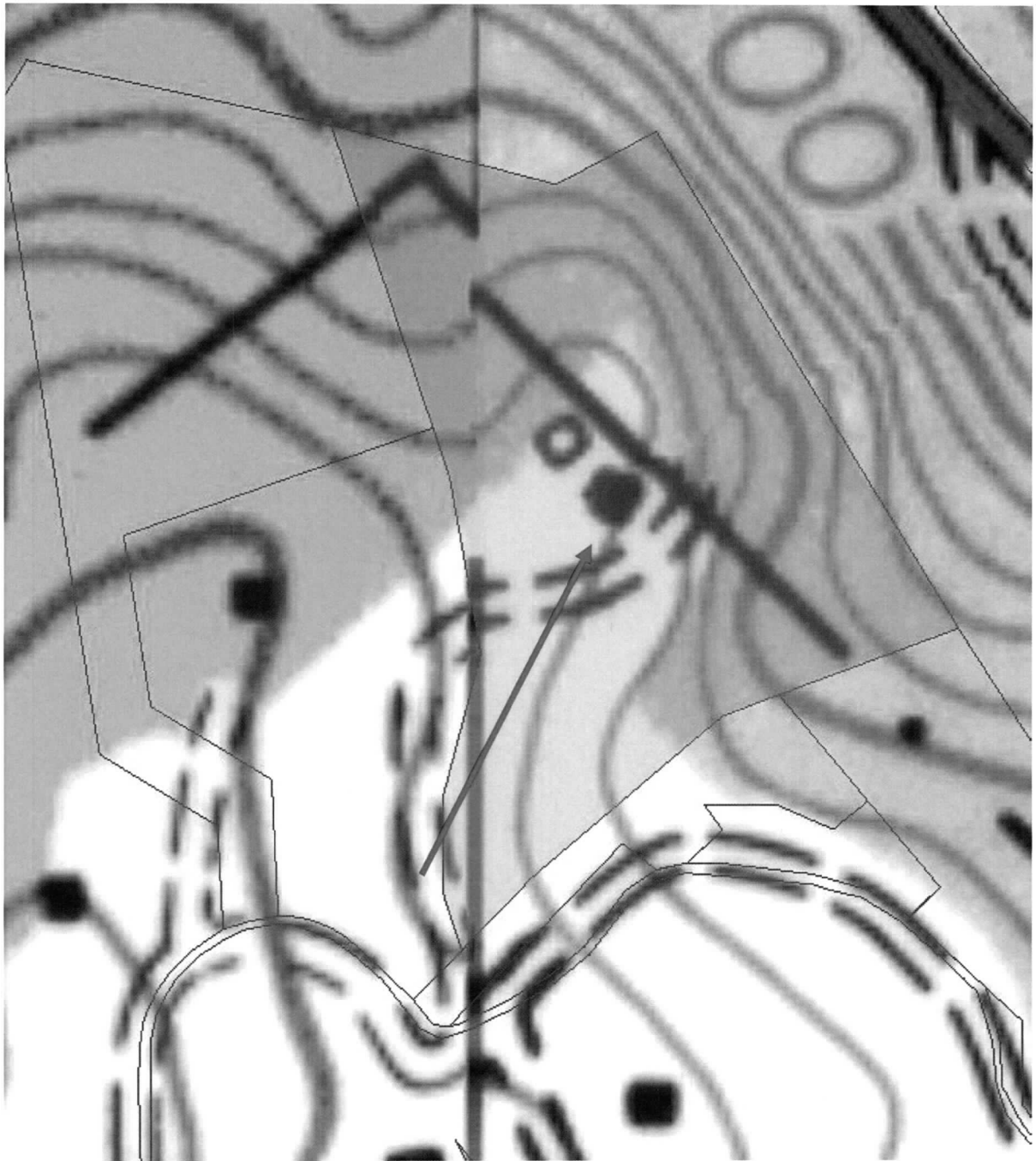
Cupboard
Cornice

2B/2 The Knoll
Pantry Cupboard Bracket - Lower half

KMS
4 Oct. 2013



HO-454
The Knoll
6802 Norris Lane
Relay quad



HO-454
The Knoll
6802 Norris Lane
Relay quad

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 1



Photo 1 of 24: East & north elevations.



Photo 2 of 24: East elevation, bench.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 2



Photo 3 of 24: South & east elevations.



Photo 4 of 24: West elevation.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 3



Photo 5 of 24: Southwest corner roof bracket.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 4



Photo 6 of 24: North & west elevations.



Photo 7 of 24: North elevation, window/siding detail.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 5



Photo 8 of 24: Northeast room, view west.



Photo 9 of 24: Northeast room, view southwest.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 6



Photo 10 of 24: Northeast room, view northeast.



Photo 11 of 24: Southeast room, view northwest.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 7



Photo 12 of 24: Southeast room, mantel detail.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 8



Photo 13 of 24: Southeast room, parlor stove.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 9



Photo 14 of 24: Southwest room, fireplace in northwest corner exposed during demolition.



Photo 15 of 24: Pantry.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 10



Photo 16 of 24: Northwest room stairway, view west.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 11



Photo 17 of 24: Stairway to second story.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 12



Photo 18 of 24: Southeast chamber, mantel.



Photo 19 of 24: Attic, west wall.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 13



Photo 20 of 24: Second-story bathroom.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 14



Photo 21 of 24: Ceiling medallion from unidentified room.



Photo 22 of 24: Fireplace insert from unidentified room.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 15



Photo 23 of 24: Stable, south & east elevations.

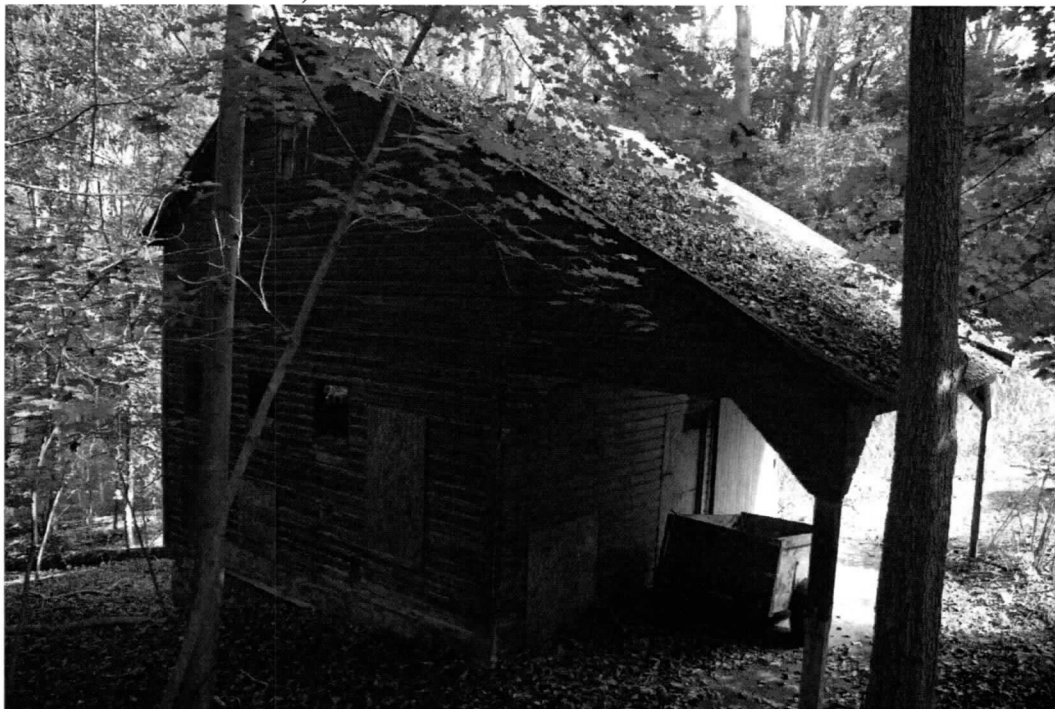


Photo 24 of 24: Stable, west & south elevations.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 16

PHOTO LOG

**Name of Photographer: Ken Short
Date of Photographs: 4 October 2013
Location of Original Digital File: MD SHPO**

Photographs inserted on continuation sheets.

**Photo 1 of 24:
East & north elevations.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_01.tif**

**Photo 2 of 24:
East elevation, bench.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_02.tif**

**Photo 3 of 24:
South & east elevations.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_03.tif**

**Photo 4 of 24:
West elevation.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_04.tif**

**Photo 5 of 24:
Southwest corner roof bracket.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_05.tif**

**Photo 6 of 24:
North & west elevations.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_06.tif**

**Photo 7 of 24:
North elevation, window/siding detail.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_07.tif**

**Photo 8 of 24:
Northeast room, view west.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_08.tif**

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 17

Photo 9 of 24:

Northeast room, view southwest.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_09.tif

Photo 10 of 24:

Northeast room, view northeast.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_10.tif

Photo 11 of 24:

Southeast room, view northwest.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_11.tif

Photo 12 of 24:

Southeast room, mantel detail.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_12.tif

Photo 13 of 24:

Southeast room, parlor stove.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_13.tif

Photo 14 of 24:

Southwest room, fireplace in northwest corner exposed during demolition.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_14.tif

Photo 15 of 24:

Pantry.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_15.tif

Photo 16 of 24:

Northwest room stairway, view west.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_16.tif

Photo 17 of 24:

Stairway to second story.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_17.tif

Photo 18 of 24:

Southeast chamber, mantel.
HO-0454_2013-10-04_18.tif

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No: HO-454

Name: The Knoll
Continuation Sheet

Number Photos Page 18

Photo 19 of 24:

Attic, west wall.

HO-0454_2013-10-04_19.tif

Photo 20 of 24:

Second-story bathroom.

HO-0454_2013-10-04_20.tif

Photo 21 of 24:

Ceiling medallion from unidentified room.

HO-0454_2013-10-04_21.tif

Photo 22 of 24:

Fireplace insert from unidentified room.

HO-0454_2013-10-04_22.tif

Photo 23 of 24:

Stable, south & east elevations.

HO-0454_2013-10-04_22.tif

Photo 24 of 24:

Stable, west & south elevations.

HO-0454_2013-10-04_23.tif

HO-454
The Knoll
Elkridge
Private

1890

The Knoll faces east at the end of Olney/Norris Lane, off the east side of Landing Road.

It is a two bay wide, two bay deep, two and a half story high, gambrel roof (running north-south) frame, with shingled second and attic floor, shingle style house, constructed on a stone foundation, with a wide central brick chimney and another diagonally placed, wide brick chimney on the building's west wall. The building also features two, gabled roof, east dormer windows and two shed roof, west dormer windows. A two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, intersecting gambrel roof kitchen addition is placed off the north bay of the building's west wall, which is also constructed of frame, with shingled upper floors, constructed on a stone foundation. A shingled, gable roof, second floor, enclosed porch addition rests upon the one story high, open porch along the south elevation of the kitchen wing.

The building is essentially a square with first floor voids along the building's east elevation and in the southwest corner of the building. All fenestration is rectangular and double-hung, holding six-over-six lights in various dimensions. Windows located in the upper floors are decorated with three rows of shark's teeth shingles.

The Knoll was constructed by Elizabeth Cromwell Norris in the latest Shingle Style of that day, as an income producing rental property.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-454
Savage Quad.
Dist. 1

MAGI # 1404545604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Knoll

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 6802 Olney/Norris Lane

CITY, TOWN

Elkridge

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Howard

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
☐ DISTRICT	☐ PUBLIC	☒ OCCUPIED	☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☒ BUILDING(S)	☒ PRIVATE	☐ UNOCCUPIED	☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ STRUCTURE	☐ BOTH	☐ WORK IN PROGRESS	☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ OBJECT	☐ IN PROCESS	☒ YES: RESTRICTED	☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
	☐ BEING CONSIDERED	☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED	☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
		☐ NO	☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Charles and Joan Hoffman

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

6802 Olney/Norris Lane

CITY, TOWN

Elkridge,

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code Maryland 21227

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Tax Map 31, p. 140
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

Liber #: 531

Folio #: 619

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-454
Savage Quad
Dist. 1

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☒ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☒ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☐ ALTERED	☐ MOVED
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Knoll faces east at the end of Olney/Norris Lane, off the east side of Landing Road.

It is a two bay wide, two bay deep, two and a half story high, gambrel roof (running north-south) frame, with shingled second and attic floor, shingle style house, constructed on a stone foundation, with a wide central brick chimney and another diagonally placed, wide brick chimney on the building's west wall. The building also features two gabled roof east dormer windows and two shed roof, west dormer windows. A two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, intersecting gambrel roof kitchen addition is placed off the north bay of the building's west wall, which is also constructed of frame, with shingled upper floors, constructed on a stone foundation. A shingled, gabled roof, second floor, enclosed porch addition rests up on the one story high, open porch along the south elevation of the kitchen wing.

Otherwise, the building is essentially a square with first floor voids along the building's east elevation and in the southwest corner of the building. All fenestration is rectangular and double-hung, holding six-over-six lights in various dimensions. Windows located in the upper floors are decorated with three rows of shark's teeth shingles. The void of the east facade is created for use as a one story high open porch, which is supported by six square posts and covers the rectangular, one light, first floor, paneled main entrance door, located in the north bay, which is surmounted by a narrow, projecting lintel. This north bay is recessed slightly and holds a rectangular, double-hung, first floor window, holding six-over-six lights south of the entrance.

A similar, but wider, window is located in the south bay of this wall. Above rest the two gabled roof dormer windows, previously mentioned.

The South Elevation of Main Section

The south elevation holds two similar first floor windows, underlined by three light basement windows inset into the stone foundation. Above rest two second floor windows between which is placed a shingled diamond pattern and above that a single, central attic window, similar to the others but smaller in scale.

The North Elevation of Main Section

The north elevation of the main section holds a wide first floor east bay window, similar to those described and a narrower west bay window. A four light, rectangular window is located at the landing

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

of the staircase, just west of centre, with another located above it. Two second floor windows and a central attic window are also located in this wall. Three wide, wooden steps, flanked by wooden bannisters, lead to the east elevations, first floor open porch.

West Elevation of Main Section

This wall holds the first floor, dining room's, four light, rectangular, entrance door in its south bay. Above, a second floor, gabled roof (running east-west) shingled, enclosed porch, featuring eight light, casement windows extends westward, lying flush with the west wall of the kitchen wing and creating a roof for the one story high, open porch for the kitchen, which lies off the north bay of the main section's west wall.

Two shed roofed, attic dormer windows rest in the north and south bays of the west wall. They hold double six-light, square casement windows, separated and flanked by pilasters.

West Elevation of Kitchen Wing

The west elevation of the kitchen holds a first and second floor window, similar to those described, with a cellar door beneath.

South Elevation of Kitchen Wing

This south elevation holds a four light, rectangular kitchen door in the west bay and a window, similar to those described, in the east bay. A shed roofed casement window, similar to those located in the main section's west elevation is located above.

. A tall, diagonally placed, wide brick chimney is located on the northwest corner of the main section of the house, completing the building profile. A two story high, (running north-south) frame gambrel roof carriage house is located just north of the kitchen, connected by a one story high hyphen, with rectangular, cross paneled west entrance door. A frame barn lies northeast of the house.

The interior features fine hardwood floors and a noteworthy staircase. Mantlepieces in the hall and living room feature flanking columns holding scrolled brackets which support their mantle shelves.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☒ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1890	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
----------------	------	-------------------

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Knoll is significant historically and architecturally to the State of Maryland and Howard County, Maryland.

Architecturally, it is an exceptionally fine example of the Shingle Style, reminiscent of the Joseph House in Middletown, Rhode Island, Clarence S. Luce, architect. Such elements as the Gambrel roof, varied roof dormer windows and first floor voids, utilized as open porches, are found in each of the two houses. The second floor and attic of The Knoll are covered with shingles, indicative of this style. The varied roof lines in the shed and gable roofed dormers are also a feature of the Shingle Style as well as the Queen Anne Style, which it succeeded as the most "up-to-date" mode for houses around 1880. Whiffen, in his book American Architecture Since 1780, describes the Shingle Style as follows:

as an architecture in which the frame is totally concealed and walls and roof are perceived as a thin skin shaped by the enclosed space, it represented the ultimate reaction against the structuralism of the Stick Style, that high Victorian architecture of skeleton. . . . a style that brought a new freedom and openness into the planning of the American House.

This new freedom and openness to which Whiffen refers is best reflected in the interior plan and shape of the house. Rather than a central hall and staircase, off which two rooms, a parlor and sitting room are placed, we find a corner hall and staircase, with a living room flowing into a dining room, separated by two wide doors. The long, rectangular shape of the house now becomes more square and compact with the staircase located in a corner, opening up the long hall of the former plan into a more square, compact and useable space. The Knoll's entrance hall thus becomes almost another sitting room or study, as well as an ante room/hall and the flow of space between the living and dining room has been increased by eliminating the large double doors altogether. The kitchen wing of both plans remains, however, with its separate corner staircase leading up to the servants' quarters above.

The dimension and horizontal compactness of the Knolls, as well as its overall simplicity and restraint make this building one of the finest in Howard County exemplifying the Shingle Style.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Historically, the building is important in the local history of the County, standing on land once a part of Caleb Dorsey's Belmont, now used as a Conference Centre for the Smithsonian Institution.

Around the year 1879, Elizabeth Cromwell Norris constructed Olney, located southeast of the Knoll for herself and her children and moved from Baltimore City to Elkridge. Mrs. Norris kept an extensive diary and after living at Olney for some ten years, decided to construct two tenant houses, as an income producing venture. The first of these houses constructed was the Knoll, which was built in the very latest fashion of the day, reflecting the good taste and avant guard quality of the owner of Olney. Though a lady of means, with servants to help with the everyday household chores, Mrs. Norris was also a thrifty steward of her possessions and through the pages of her diary, a reflection is seen of these everyday concerns which touch all humanity. The construction of the Knoll was a major real estate venture and her concern for its successful completion and subsequent occupancy flows through the pages of her diary. Materials and construction costs are listed and later a dinner planned for a prospective occupant. Solitude concerning human relations is also mirrored in her diary. Later pages reveal the completion of the Knoll and its occupancy by an extraordinarily fine couple, Mr. and Mrs. Hays, who furnish not only companionship but abiding friendship to Mrs. Norris and her family.

The concerns which each of us face in our daily lives, a desire for right relationships with God and man and successful working relationships in business endeavors are all reflected in Mrs. Norris' diary, meeting happily with their final successful resolution.

The Knoll is no longer a dependency of "Olney", but is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman, who like the building's first residents, have formed deep and meaningful relationships with the family inhabiting "Olney."

Interesting as a page in the local history of Elkridge and Howard County and architecturally an outstanding example of the Shingle Style, the Knoll should be considered for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places, the State Critical Areas Program and any local landmark ordinance which the citizens of Howard County may seek to initiate, should its owners so desire.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mrs. Joan Hoffman, November 7, 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.35 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 31

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 531 Folio 619

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

EAST ELEVATION

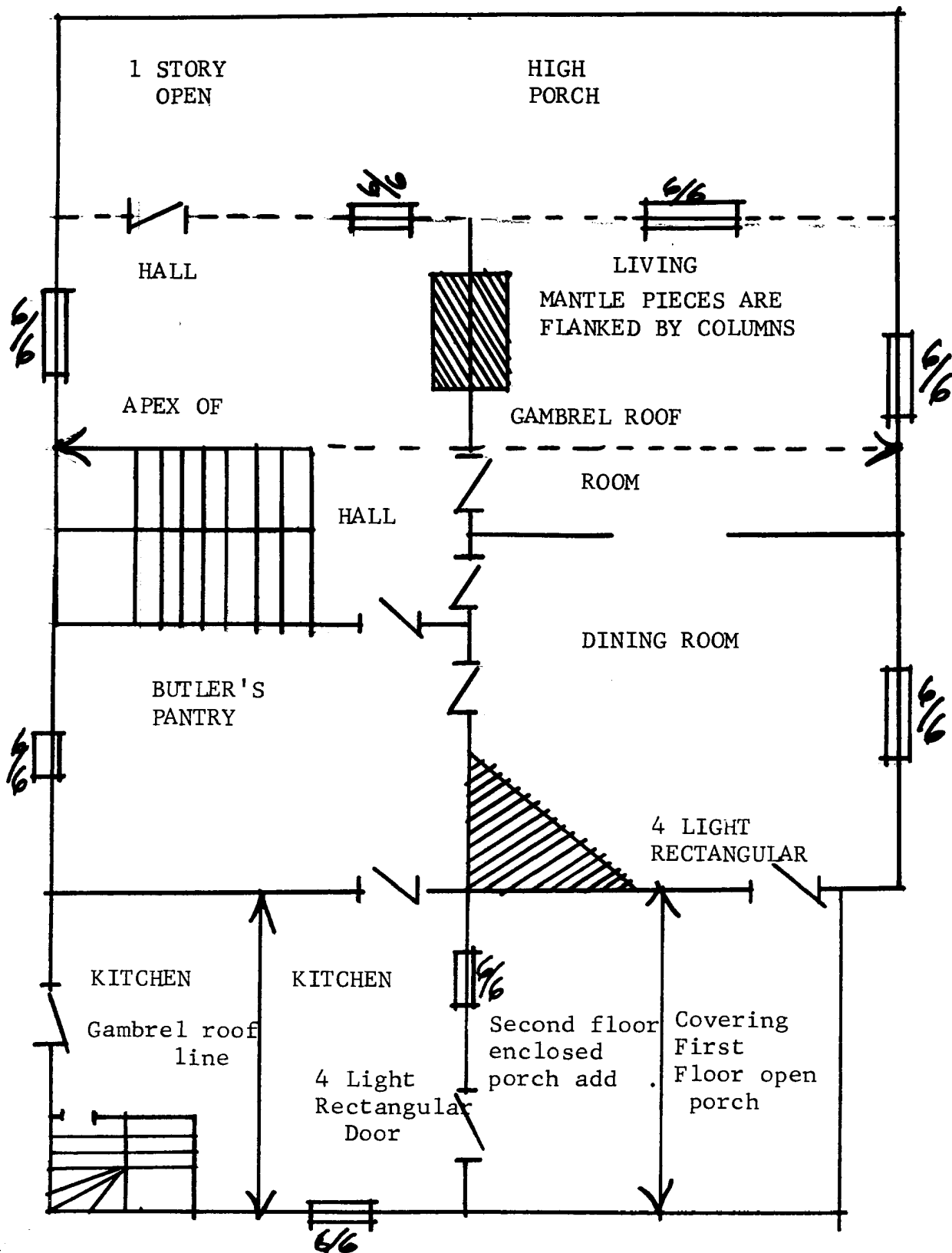
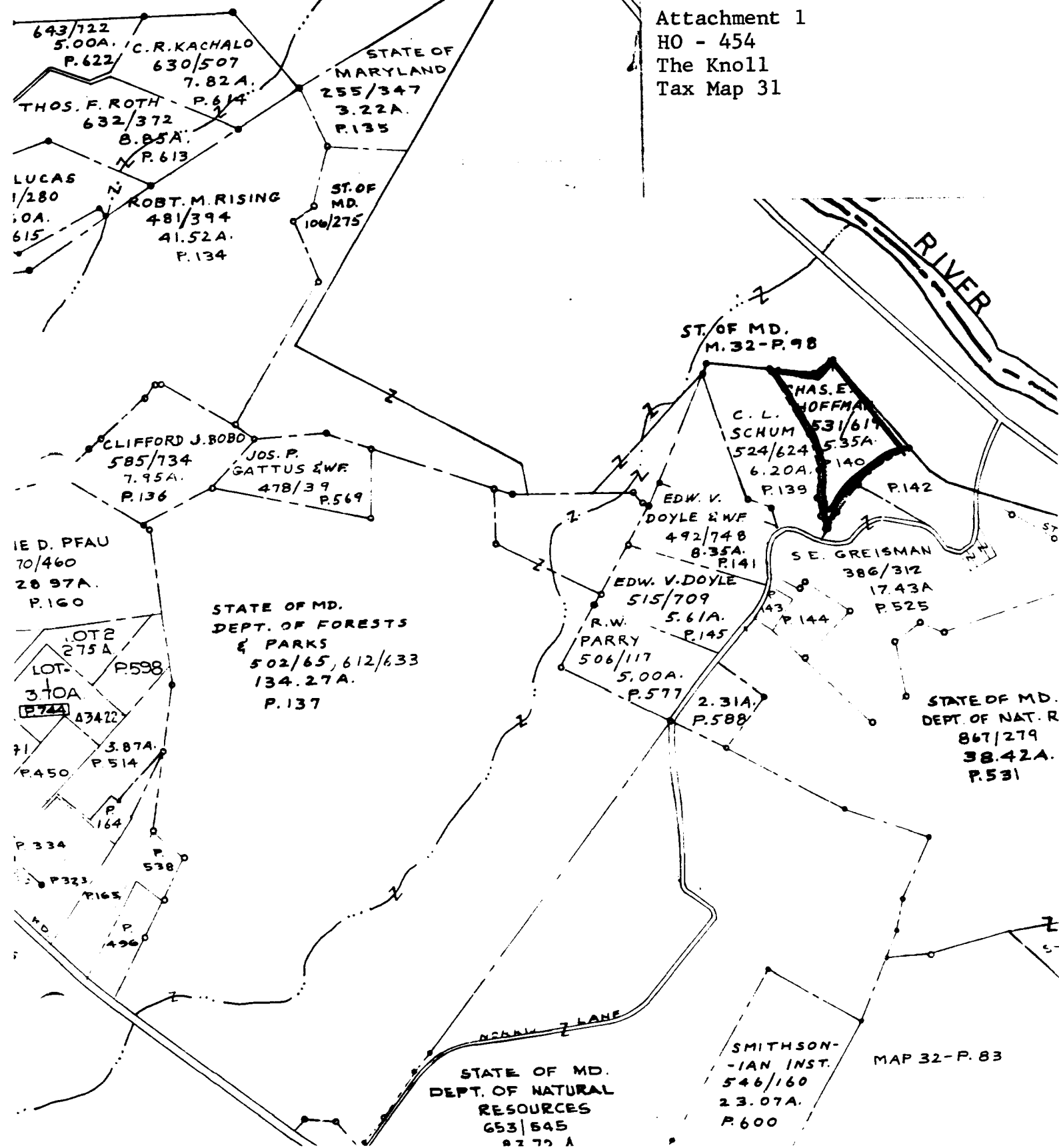
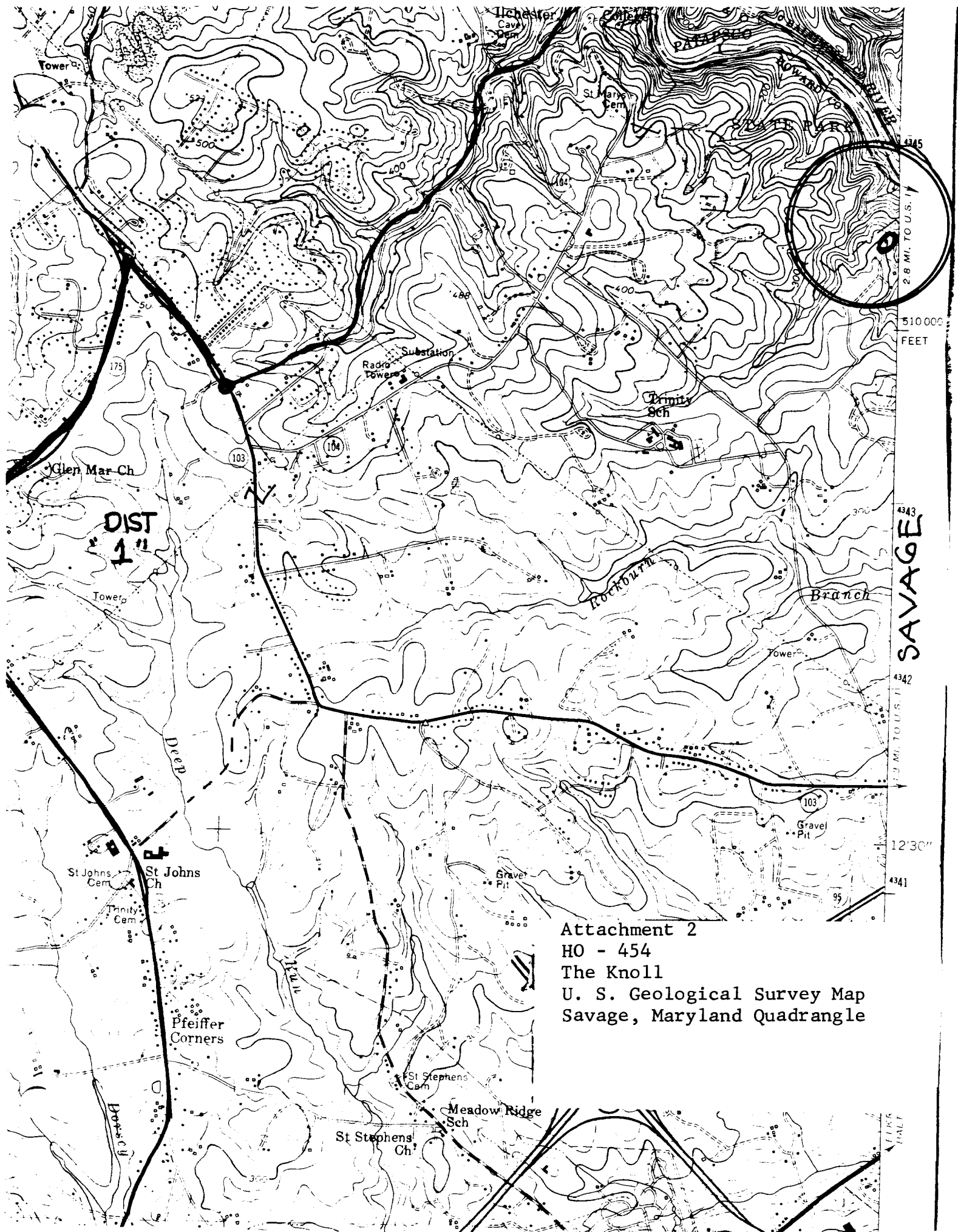


FIGURE 1
HO - 454
THE KNOLL
FIRST FLOOR PLAN (NTS)

Attachment 1
HO - 454
The Knoll
Tax Map 31





Attachment 2
HO - 454
The Knoll
U. S. Geological Survey Map
Savage, Maryland Quadrangle



HO-454
THE KNOLL

SOUTHWEST
NOV 79

GEORGE BASILE THOMPSON AICP
PLANNING CONSULTANT
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY