

HO-181

Alexander Sands House

14465 Frederick Road (Rt. 144)

Private

**Description:**

The Alexander Sands House is a one-story, two-bay by one bay log structure with a parged foundation and a gable roof that has corrugated metal and a north-south ridge. There is a two-bay by two-bay shed-roofed addition on the east that has asbestos shingle siding. The west elevation has a three-bay by one-bay shed-roofed addition with brick-pattern asphalt shingles. Both additions are frame and have corrugated metal roofs. There is an interior brick chimney on the south gable end. There are no other buildings on the property.

**Significance:**

The Alexander Sands House was originally a log sheep shed on the farm of Dr. Augustus Riggs, which was located primarily on the west side of Route 97. This part of the farm was originally a pasture, but has since become overgrown with trees. Sands, an African-American, returned from service in World War I and took a job as a laborer on the farm. He was given the use of the log building to convert to a dwelling for he and his family as part of the condition of employment, subject to a monthly rent of \$1.00. He apparently converted the building in the 1920s and periodically made enlargements and improvements to it. There were two rooms downstairs and one room upstairs, for the Sands and their seven children. The logs were originally exposed on the interior and were whitewashed every year, but at a later time they were covered with drywall. This has since been ripped out of the interior. The Sands House is a good illustration of one of the strategies employed by Howard County's African-American community to find housing, and it is probably a pattern that dates to the earliest settlement of African-Americans, free or enslaved, in this region. The building has been vacant for a number of years.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-181

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Alexander Sands House

other R. Hook Log House

### 2. Location

street and number 14465 Frederick Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Cooksville \_\_\_ vicinity

county Howard

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

name Brice & Mary Ann Ridgely

street and number 2125 Route 97

telephone

city, town Cooksville

state MD

zip code 21723

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 4803 folio 370

city, town Ellicott City tax map 8 tax parcel 96 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	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1	0
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	0	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		0
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		0
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		0
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		0
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		0
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		0
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		0
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		0
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		0
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		0
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		0
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		0
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
			1	

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. HO-181

### Condition

excellent     deteriorated  
 good         ruins  
 fair          altered

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

### Summary:

The Alexander Sands House is a one-story, two-bay by one bay log structure with a parged foundation and a gable roof that has corrugated metal and a north-south ridge. There is a two-bay by two-bay shed-roofed addition on the east that has asbestos shingle siding. The west elevation has a three-bay by one-bay shed-roofed addition with brick-pattern asphalt shingles. Both additions are frame and have corrugated metal roofs. There is an interior brick chimney on the south gable end. There are no other buildings on the property.

### Description:

The Alexander Sands House is located at 14465 Frederick Road (Rt. 144), just east of Cooksville, in northwestern Howard County, Maryland. The house sits on the south side of the road, about 50 feet back from the road, and faces east. It is a one-story, two-bay by one bay log structure with a parged foundation and a gable roof that has corrugated metal and a north-south ridge. There is a two-bay by two-bay shed-roofed addition on the east that has asbestos shingle siding. The west elevation has a three-bay by one-bay shed-roofed addition with brick-pattern asphalt shingles. Both additions are frame and have corrugated metal roofs. There is an interior brick chimney on the south gable end.

The east elevation of the addition, in the south bay, has a window opening with no sash and a pair of three-light casements. The north bay is a one-bay deep open porch with a four-light sash and a pair of three-light casements on the east elevation of the recessed addition wall. This porch appears to have been enclosed at one time, and part of that enclosure survives on the bottom of the east wall. The north elevation of the addition has the open porch to the east and a pair of four-light sash with wide vertical muntins in the west bay. The main block has a two-over-two sash on the first story and a one-over-one sash in the gable end. This end has asbestos-shingle siding.

The north elevation of the west addition has a door with eight lights, and it is flanked by two one-light sash on each side. The west elevation of this addition has three one-over-one sash. The south elevation and the interior were not accessible. There are no other buildings on the property.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-181

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

Specific dates                      N/A    Architect/Builder                      N/A

Construction dates                      mid 19<sup>th</sup> c., 1920s

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.)

The previous inventory of this property confused its history with that of the Walter & Sadie Smith House (HO-989), next door. The Alexander Sands House was originally a log sheep shed on the farm of Dr. Augustus Riggs, which was located primarily on the west side of Route 97. This part of the farm was originally a pasture, but has since become overgrown with trees. Sands, an African-American, returned from service in World War I and took a job as a laborer on the farm. He was given the use of the log building to convert to a dwelling for him and his family as part of the condition of employment, subject to a monthly rent of \$1.00. He apparently converted the building in the 1920s and periodically made enlargements and improvements to it. There were two rooms downstairs and one room upstairs, for the Sands and their seven children. The logs were originally exposed on the interior and were whitewashed every year, but at a later time they were covered with drywall. This has since been ripped out of the interior. Alexander Sands was best friends with his neighbor, Walter Smith (see HO-989) whose house was built shortly before the Sands house was converted. The Sands House is a good illustration of one of the strategies employed by Howard County's African-American community to find housing, and it is probably a pattern that dates to the earliest settlement of African-Americans, free or enslaved, in this region. The building has been vacant for a number of years.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Interview with Mr. Doug Sands, 30 April 2009.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. HO-181

See footnotes

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 1 A  
Acreage of historical setting 11.92 A  
Quadrangle name Woodbine Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the property lines on the north, south, and east sides of tax map 8, parcel 96, and a line parallel to the east boundary and 200 feet west of it, which encompasses all of the historic structures on the property.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	January 2010
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	Maryland

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



HO-181  
Alexander Sands House  
14465 Frederick Road  
Howard County, Maryland  
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera  
HP Premium Plus paper  
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-1009\_2009-04-30\_01  
East & north elevations

HO-1009\_2009-04-30\_02  
North & west elevations



HO-181

Alexander Sands House

14465 Frederick Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

April 30, 2009

MD SHPO  
East and North Elevations

1/2



HO-181

Alexander Sand's House

14465 Frederick Road

Howard County, MD

Ken Short

April 30, 2007

MD SHPO

North & West Elevations

2/2

HO-181

The R. Hook Log House  
Cooksville  
Private

1850

The Alexander Sands or R. Hook Log House faces east on the south side of Route 144, just east of its intersection with Route 97.

It is a two bay wide, one room deep, one story high, gable, tin roof (running north-south) log house, with one story high, shed roofed, frame appendages along the east and west elevations, and a central, square brick chimney inset into the south wall.

The R. Hook Log House is located on what was once a forty acre piece of a larger tract of land called "Trusty Friend", which Sarah Hobbs Hood inherited from her father, Captain Thomas Hobbs in 1824. Sarah Hobbs married Thomas Hood, one of the first commissioners of Howard County, Maryland. It was they who sold it to Robert Hook on January 1, 1854.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-181  
Woodbine Quad  
District 4  
MAGI #1401815304

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The R. Hook Log House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Frederick Road (MD Route 144)

CITY, TOWN Cooksville VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6th

STATE Maryland COUNTY Howard

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Sadie B. Smith *(Hackett, 1948)*  
*Alexander Sands*

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER ~~14465-14459~~ Frederick Rd. Route 144

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

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Tax Map 8, p. 129  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

Liber #: 280  
Folio #: 326

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-181  
Woodbine Quad  
District 4

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Alexander Sands or R. Hook Log House faces east on the south side of Route 144, just east of its intersection with Route 97.

It is a two bay wide, one room deep, one story high, gable, tin roof (running north-south) log house, with one story high, shed roofed, frame appendages along the east and west elevations, and a central, square brick chimney inset into the south wall.

#### THE SOUTH ELEVATION

This elevation holds no first floor apertures, but does feature two rectangular, double-hung second floor windows. Part of this log wall is faced with shingles.

#### THE NORTH ELEVATION

The north elevation holds a central, first floor, rectangular, double-hung window, holding two-over-two lights and a similar second floor window above. The north wall of the west wing holds an eight light rectangular entrance door, flanked by two light windows.

The north wall of the east wing holds an end bay, rectangular entrance door. The remainder of this wall is enclosed by four, double-hung, rectangular windows, holding one-over-one lights, divided in half by a flat pilaster.

#### THE EAST WALL

The east wall holds a squarish, one light window at each end, with a tall, central one light rectangular window. Between this latter window and the end windows rests, on the south, a three-three light casement window and on the north, a three-over-three light, rectangular window.

#### THE WEST WALL

The west wall of the west appendage holds three connecting, one-over-one light windows, which creates an enclosed porch.

This log cabin is modestly constructed, and the log and stone construction of the north and south elevations painted white, with the exception of a small area on the south elevation covered by shingles.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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

SPECIFIC DATES

circa 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The R. Hook Log House is significant architecturally and historically to Howard County and the State of Maryland as a mid-nineteenth century example of vernacular log architecture, situated on what was once a forty acre piece of a large tract of land called "Trusty Friend", which Sarah Hobbs Hood inherited from her father, Captain Thomas Hobbs in 1824. Sarah Hobbs married Thomas Hood, one of the first commissioners of Howard County, Maryland. Whether this log house was constructed in 1795 in conjunction with the brick house on the opposite side of Route 144, called "Trusty Friend" is not known. It certainly dates from the year 1854, when Robert Hook bought the property and is noted at this location in 1860 on the Martennet Map.

Associated with the Hobbs and Hood families of Howard County, this log structure should be considered for the National Register, the State Critical Areas Program and any local landmark ordinance the citizens of Howard County may seek to initiate, should its owners so desire.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Interview with Mr. Charles W. Robb, former owner of "Trusty Friend".  
Howard County Land Records  
Robb, Charles McComus, History of Trusty Friend.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.50 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 8

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 280 Folio 326

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

STATE Maryland COUNTY Howard

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

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

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

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## TITLE SEARCH

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

HO-181 The R. Hook Log House

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liber-Folio</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u># Acres</u>
9/4/56	280-326	Margaret M. Barry	Walter J. Smith & Sadie B.	2 acres ±
9/4/56	280-323	Sadie B. Smith & Walter J. Smith	Margaret Barry	2 acres ±
22/12/25	HBN125-517	Walter J. Smith	Sadie B. Smith	2 acres
		"Excepting . . . one half acre"		
9/7/12	WWLC 93-303	Richard B. Johnson	Walter J. Smith	2 acres
		"Excepting . . . ½ acre" (Nov. 3, 1925 125-279)		
		"part of firstly described of four parcels WWLC 88-432"		
1/2/10	WWLC 88-432	Annie E. Merrick, widow	Richard B. Johnson and Mary L. Johnson	40 acres ±
1/7/08	WWLC 86-38	Sarah Ann Hook et al widow of Robert Hook	Annie E. Merrick	\$2,700
		"All those 4 contiguous tracts or parcels of ground which are fully described . . . in four deeds to Robert Hook . . ."		
26/1/54	WHW 16-479	Thomas H. Hood and Sarah Hood	Robert Hook	40 acres ±
		"P/O Trusty Friend" together with . . . the buildings and improvements . . ."		\$800

Note: Sarah Hobbs Hood inherited this 40 acres, P/O tract of land called "Trusty Friend" from her father, Captain Hobbs in 1824.

HO-181

HO-181  
1401917904

Alexander Sands  
~~Walter J. Smith~~ Log house  
RT 144, Cookeville

Painted - 1-story log cabin

located in field by MAB 7/10  
(previously by OR)

#181

Box Map # 8

parcel 129

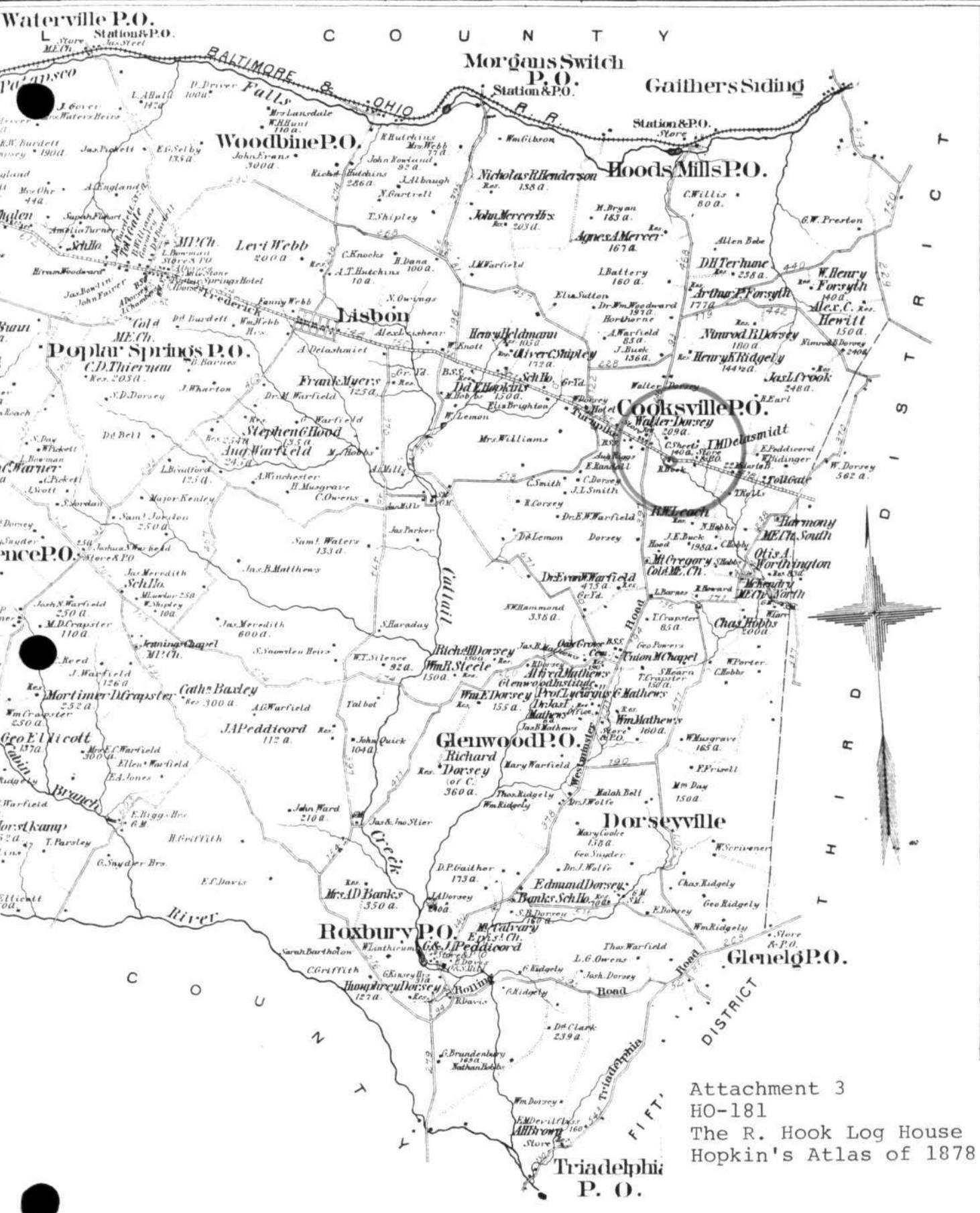
Walter J. Smith + wife

280/326

1.50 A.

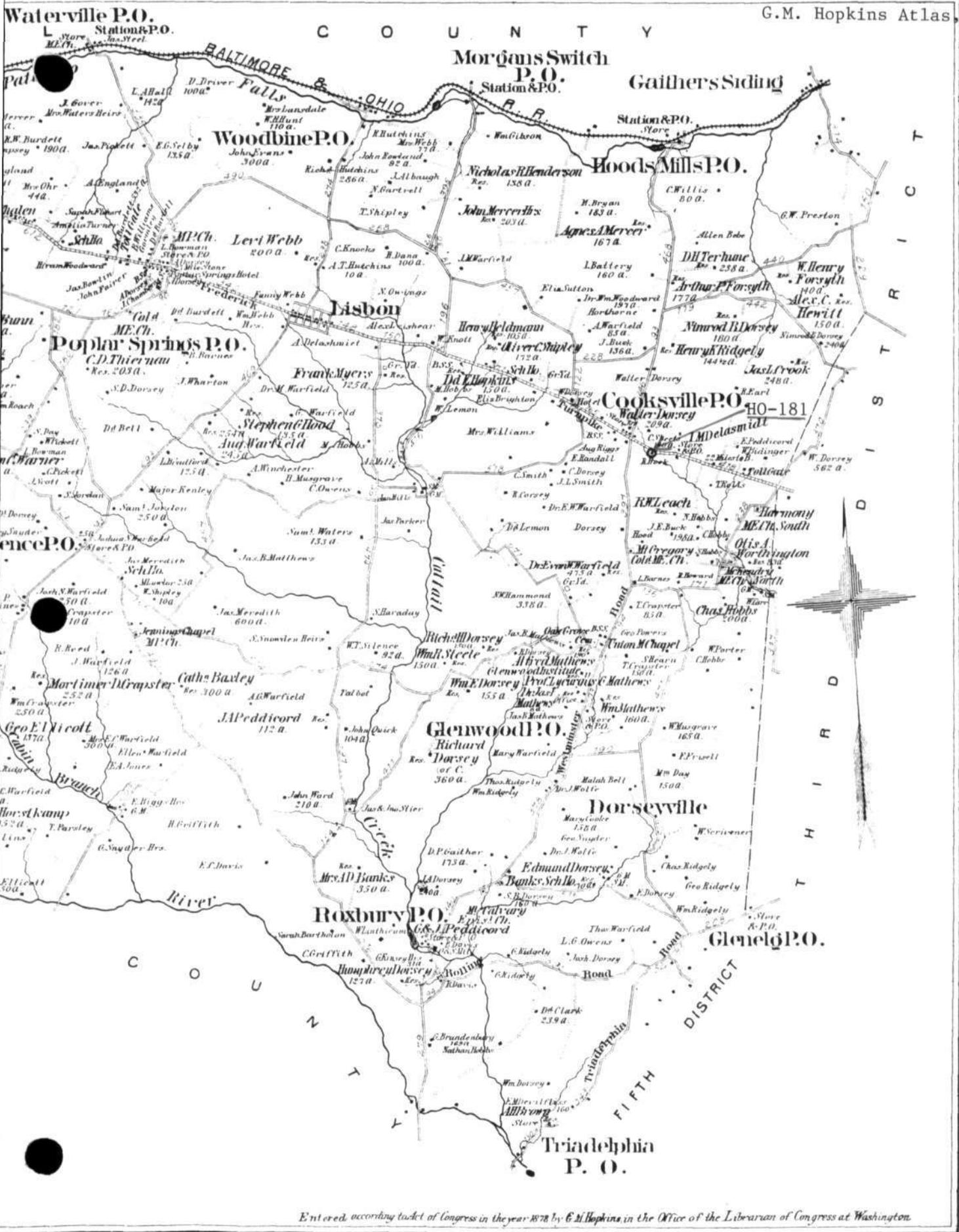
Md. Hwy.  
new owner Alexander Sands



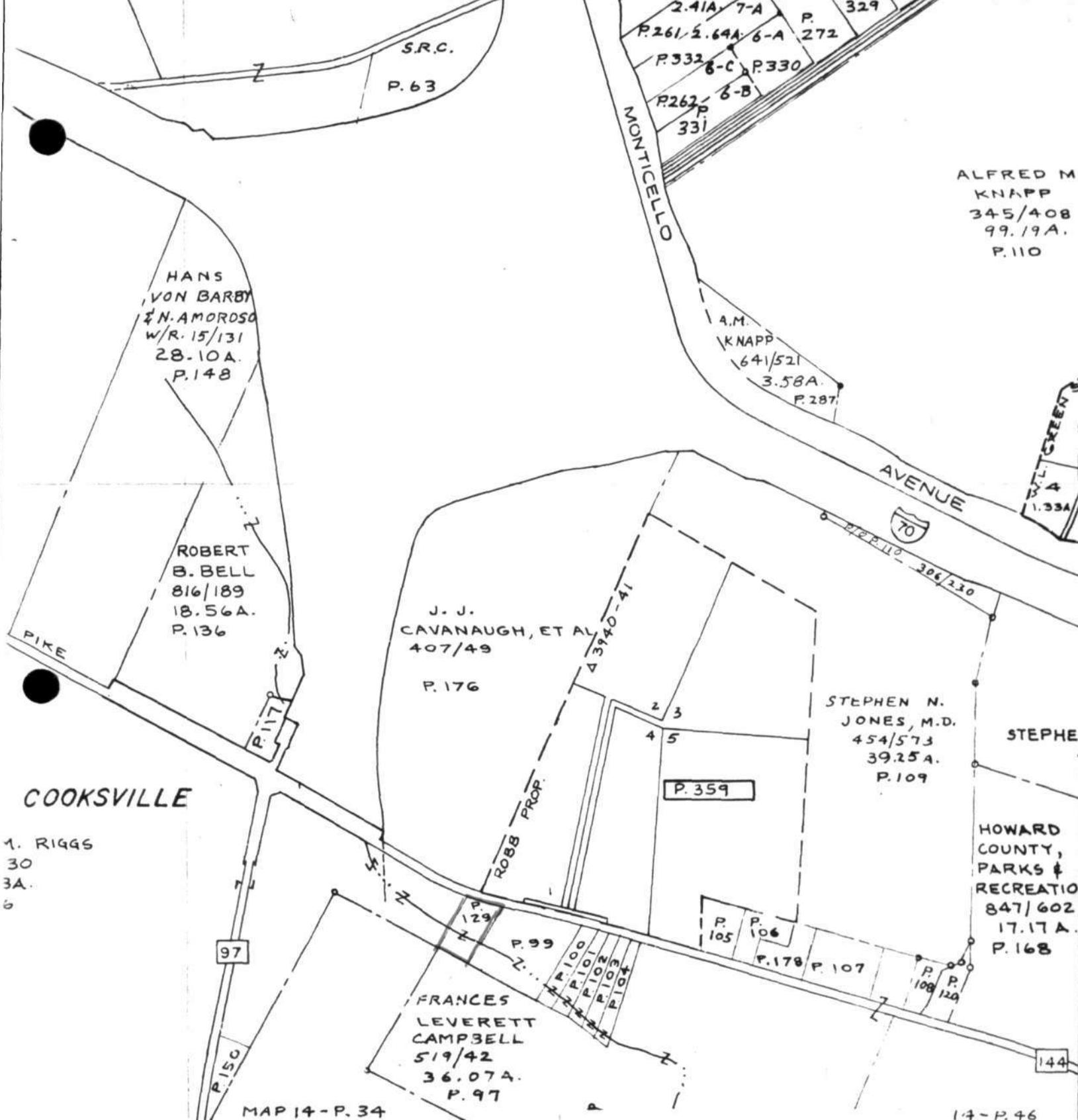


Attachment 3  
HO-181  
The R. Hook Log House  
Hopkin's Atlas of 1878

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1878 by E.M. Hopkins in the



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



PROPERTY LINE - - - - -  
 SUB-DIVISION BOUNDARY - - - - -  
 CONTINUING OWNERSHIP - Z I.E. - Z - - - Z - - - Z  
 PARCEL NUMBER - P. 349 (ASSIGNED TO IDENTIFY AND INDEX OWNERSHIP. MUST BE PRECEDED BY MAP NUMBER.)  
 SCALE: 1" = 600'

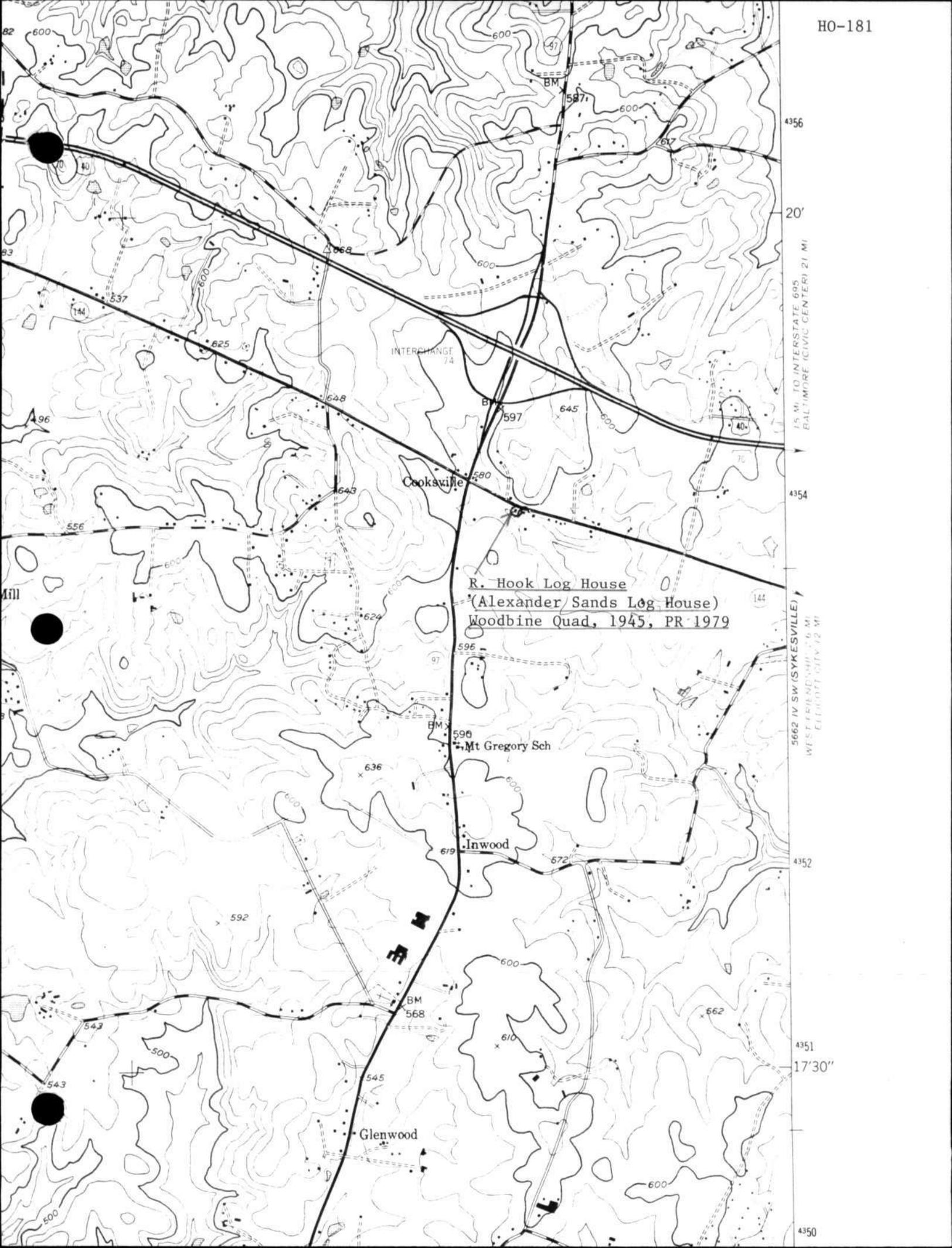
BY	LAST P. NO.	PHOTO	QUADRANGLE
R.B.W.	361	2DD-275 3DD-191	A.D. 4

Attachment 1  
 HO-181  
 The R. Hook Log House  
 Tax Map 8

SCA  
  
 0  
 ARD 'CO



Attachment 2  
HO-181  
The R. Hook Log House  
U.S. Geological Survey Map  
Woodbine, Maryland  
Quadrangle





HO-181  
Alexander Sands House  
14465 Frederick Road (Rt. 144)  
Cooksville  
Woodbine quad



HO. 181

212A

Walter Smith's log house

21/6 288  
888 4/72



Name: HO-181  
Location: The R. Hook Log House  
14459 Frederick Road  
Cooksville, Maryland 21723  
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.  
Date of Photograph: February, 1980  
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust  
View: North elevation of the R. Hook Log House  
Photographer looking: South  
Photograph number: 1 of 1