

Ho-389
The Edward Stead House
Elkridge
Private

1865

The Edward Stead house faces west on the south side of Lawyer's Hill Road. It began as a three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, high pitched, slate, gabled roof (running north-south) frame structure with central west entrance and hall and two exterior brick chimneys, one placed on the east wall of the living room, the other on the east wall of the dining room. A n east wing or service wing extends from the east wall of the main structure. It is a three bay wide, one bay deep, intersecting gabled roof (running east-west) frame structure with wide exterior brick chimney placed on the center of its east wall. Beside it rests an additional square brick chimney and to the south a kitchen entrance.

In 1870 an additional hall, staircase and library were added to the south wall of the main west wing. Later still, a further two story high, shed roofed addition was added to this additional east wall, creating a very large library and music room.

Built as a summer home by Dr. Robert Dorsey of adjoining Bonnie Wood, for his son Grafton, it has been occupied by only two families, the Dorseys and the Steads.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Edward Stead House

AND/OR COMMON

"The Gables", "West View"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 6235 Lawyers Hill Road

CITY, TOWN

Elkridge

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

Sixth District

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Howard

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 Mr. Edward Stead

Telephone #: 796-0204

STREET & NUMBER

6235 Lawyers Hill Road

CITY, TOWN

Elkridge

Maryland

STATE, zip code

— VICINITY OF

sixth district

21227

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Tax Map 38, p. 23
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

Liber #: 198

Folio #: 496

STREET & NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1977

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

HO-389

Dist 1

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edward Stead House sits on a slope of ground 1/10 of a mile from the south side of Lawyers Hill Road with its entrance 9/10 of a mile from the intersection of Montgomery and Lawyers Hill Road. The original house, built in 1865 by Dr. Robert Dorsey for his son, Grafton Duval Dorsey, was built in an T plan facing west. The west wing was a three bay wide, one room deep, gabled roof (running north south) two story high frame structure built on a brick foundation. A central projecting, intersecting, high pitched gabled roof, oriel window is located on the west elevation, supported by heavy curved brackets. It creates a cover for the central rectangular, four light entrance door on this elevation, which is flanked by three-three light first floor casement windows.

Two wooden steps on the north elevation lead to a wooden landing and central five-five light french door, surmounted by a flat wooden lintel and decorated with black shutters. Above lies a second floor, rectangular, double-hung window, holding six-over-six lights and a six light, casement attic window above. Seven scrolled barge boards decorate the eaves of this elevation.

The east wing or service wing holds the main staircase, pantry, kitchen, servants staircase and second floor quarters. It springs from the east wall of the west wing and extends eastward three bays. It is a two story high, one bay deep, intersecting slate, gabled roof (running east-west) frame structure set on a brick foundation with a wide brick exterior chimney centered on the east wall of the kitchen. A tall square brick exterior chimney rests beside it on the north. A one story high, semi enclosed, shed roofed porch runs along the east elevation of this section, leading to a four light rectangular kitchen door south of the chimney.

The north elevation of this service wing holds three first and second floor, rectangular, double-hung windows, holding six-over-six lights. Those windows in the west bay of this wall hold only four-over-four lights, while those in the east bay hold air conditioning units in their lower sections. Additional corbeled brick exterior chimneys rest in the center of the living rooms east wall and in the center of the dining room's east wall as well as in the center of the library - music room.

In 1870 the buildings west wing was extended southward to create an additional hall, staircase and this library - music room. In 1890 when the property was conveyed from the Dorseys to the Force and Stead family, (JHO 57-612) an extension eastward was made to this library - music room and a large grand piano installed for Mr. Stead's mother, an accomplished pianist. The two story high, shed roofed addition held four first and second floor three-three light, rectangular, casement windows on both the south and east elevations, and may well have been designed by Mr. Robert Stead, a Washington architect and father of the present owner, Mr.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Edward Stead.

The interior features random width pine floors and cross paneled doors as well as large, spacious, well-lighted rooms.

Two interesting structures, a small brick play house south of the house and a summer house or gazebo designed by Robert Stead west of the house are noteworthy. An interesting bill for the construction of the latter is dated May 5, 1903. It was built by Robert Coates, and seven others, mostly members of the Coates family who labored for some 390 hours to complete the octagonal, conical roofed, summer house, open on all eight sides. Hourly wages ran from 10¢ an hour to 30¢ an hour for Mr. Coates, the supervisor of the operation. The total cost of the project was \$167.15. Each expenditure was noted on the bill such as one and a half gallons of paint at \$1.50 per gallon or a total cost of \$2.25.

It is constructed of logs and twigs as well as four pieces of good Georgia pine 3x8x12. The floor today is as solid as when it was constructed.

The house is surrounded by twenty acres of fire wood land cleared westward and landscaped with numerous lovely mature trees, among them several outstanding holly.

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

1865, 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Edward Stead house, commonly called "the Gables" is significant both historically and architecturally.

Historically, the tract of land on which it stands was once a part of Rockburn, associated with Belmont and the Dorseys.

In 1865 Dr. Robert E. Dorsey of Bonnie Wood, a house which formerly sat on the site of the present Murray-Miller house, built the Gables, then called West View for his son, Grafton Duval Dorsey in 1865. Grafton Dorsey died at a young age, leaving his widow, Martha Matilda Anne Dorsey, to whom the property and house were conveyed by Dr. Robert Dorsey and his wife Sarah for \$4,000 on December 24, 1867 (WWW 27-540). Mrs. Dorsey and her several children were left with "Slender means". At one time she tried taking summer boarders and at another time she conducted dancing classes.

It came into the hands of Robert Stead in this way. He saw the Waters place in Relay advertised in a Washington paper and went out to Relay to buy it, but could not come to terms with Mr. Waters. He then heard the Dorsey place was for sale and came to terms with Mrs. Dorsey and bought it. And for this, the Stead family was indeed grateful because the house was much better constructed, the trees much finer and the soil much better. On October 24, 1887 Cynthia Force of the City of Washington acquired the property from Martha Dorsey for \$16,300, "together with all the improvements thereon." Confirmatory deeds of this transaction are dated December 31, 1890 (JHO 57-612) and November 17, 1899 (JHO 71-226).

Cynthia Force devised her property to William Force Stead.

On May 9, 1929 William Force Stead and Anne Frances Stead granted and Conveyed the property to Mary Stead Worthington and Edward Stead, "together with the buildings and improvements." (HSK 136-252). On February 10, 1944 Mary conveyed the entire property to her brother Edward. (B M Jr. 180-433)

The Stead family were almost the only Lawyers Hill family to live in Washington during the winter. The others lived in Baltimore. Mr. Stead's Momentos and memorabilia of Peter Force fill his home. A sword

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

hangs over the brick kitchen fireplace and a signed lithograph of him as well as his magnificent side board occupy a place in his lovely home. This delightful two story cottage and service wing forms a T plan which featuring a projecting, high pitched gable, oriel window in the center of its west wall. The additions lend a certain charm to the house which sits on the top of a gentle knoll, amid a grove of mature trees.

Built as a summer home, it is now used as the **year round** residence of Mr. Stead. It should be placed on the National Register of historic places in conjunction with a Lawyers Hill Historic District, both national and local, should its residents so desire.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ho-389
Dist 1

Howard County Land Records Private papers of Mr. Edward Stead and Mrs. Jeanne Dougherty. Interview with Mr. Stead at "The Gables", December 28, 1977.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20 Acres

Please see Attachment 1 Tax Maps 32 and 38

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Records Liber 198, Folio 496

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

465-5000 x257

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

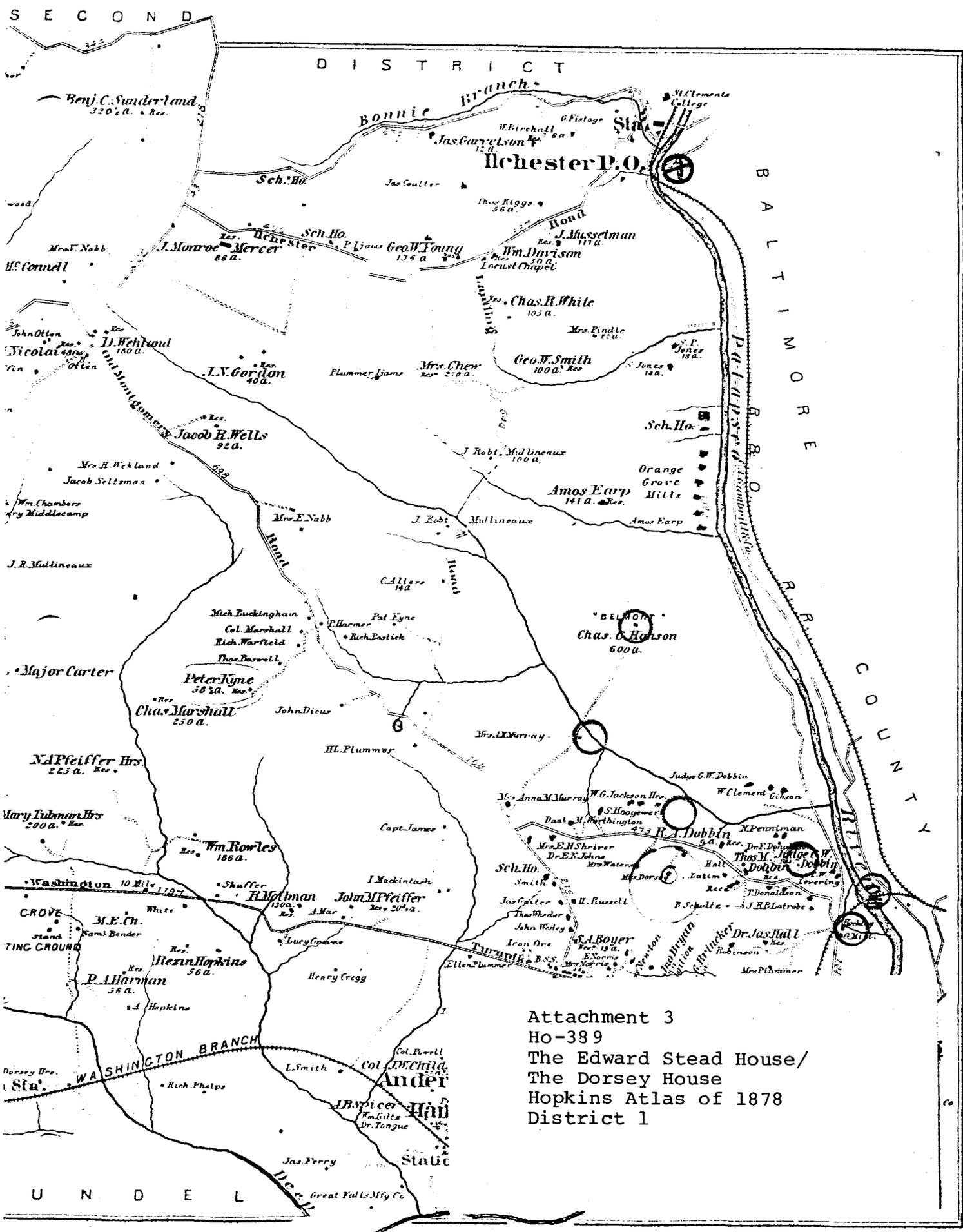
STATE

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.

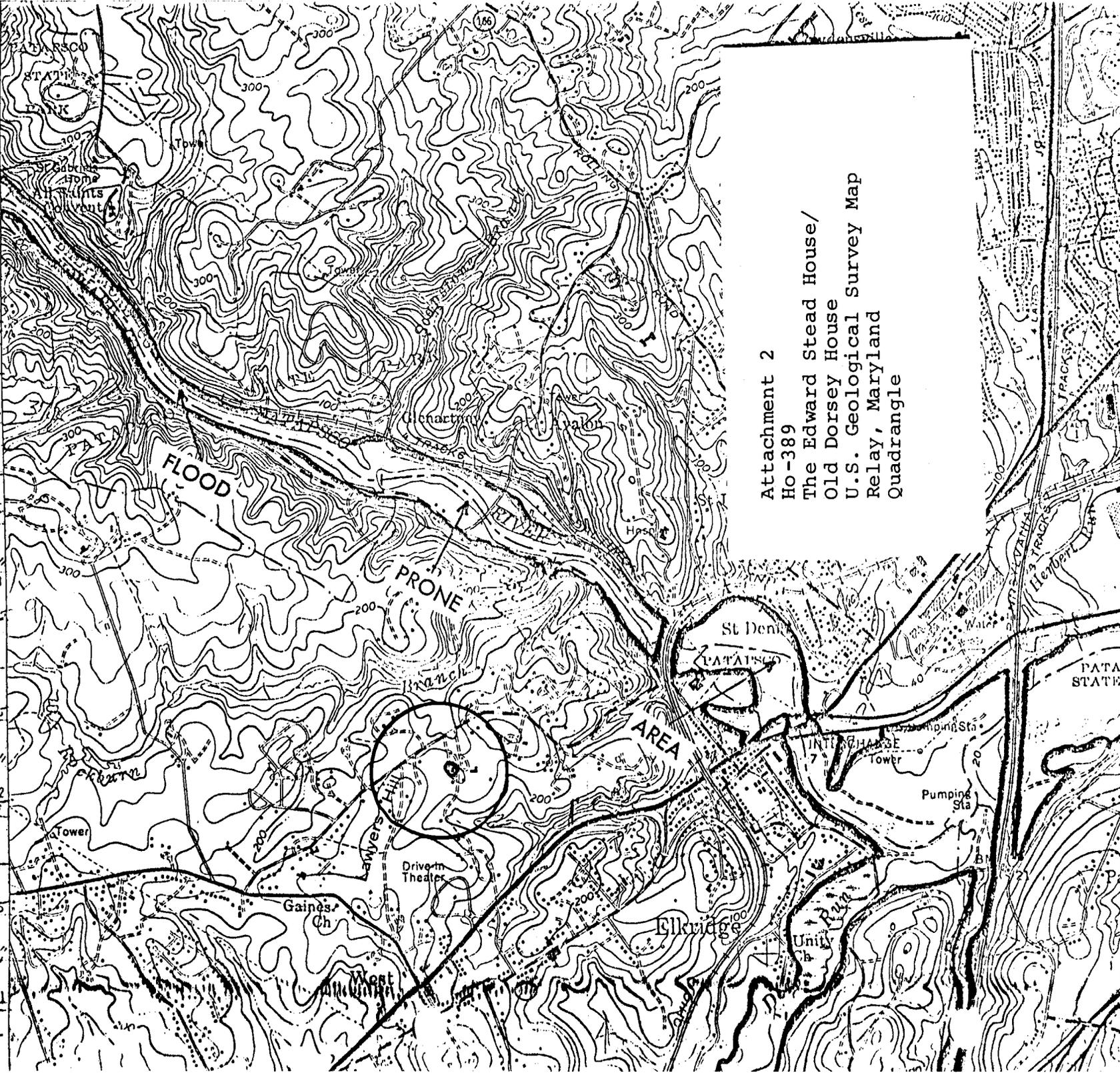
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



Attachment 3
 Ho-389
 The Edward Stead House/
 The Dorsey House
 Hopkins Atlas of 1878
 District 1

5/11/50
4.15
10/10

52.5
45
37.5
4345000m N
59°14'30"
22.5
15
7.5
4344
52.5
45
37.5
39°13'30"
4343
22.5
15
7.5
39°13'00"
4342
52.5
45
37.5
39°12'30"
4341
22.5
15



Attachment 2
Ho-389
The Edward Stead House/
Old Dorsey House
U.S. Geological Survey Map
Relay, Maryland
Quadrangle

PATA
STATE



Ho-389

The Edward Stead House
West

C B Thompson

Dec. 1977