

Ho-437
The Bright House/Lawyer's Row
Ellicott City
Private

C.C.,
circa 1894

One of five frame buildings, comprising Lawyer's Row which face north on the south side of Court Avenue, the present Bright residence has been the property of two men who have served Howard County as judges to the Circuit Court, James Macgill and T. Hunt Mayfield and one Howard County States Attorney, Richard J. Kinlein.

It is a two bay wide, three bay deep, two and a half story, gabled roof (running north-south) mustard frame structure built on a full basement cement block foundation. It fits into the steep granite slope on the north side of Church Street so that its second floor on the south becomes its first floor on the north entrance on to Court Avenue. This rectangular entrance is surmounted by a two light transom with a circular six light window fitting into the "A" line created by the gabled roof line.

A wide fieldstone exterior chimney has been added to the west wall as well as large first and second floor, twenty-four light picture windows flanked by double-hung, rectangular windows holding six-over-six lights set into the middle of its south wall. This wall is most dramatic as it projects southward from the basement foundation above the steep granite cliff on the north side of Church Road, once called Ellicott Street.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Reuben Johnson House

AND/OR COMMON

The Bright House / Lawyer's Row

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

8343 Court Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

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	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bright

Telephone #: 465-0804

STREET & NUMBER

8343 Court Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City, Md. 21043

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE Tax Map 25A p. 254
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Hall of Records

Liber #: 496

Folio #: 1

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

DESCRIPTIONHO-437
Dist 2
CC

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 Bright House on Lawyer's Row is a two bay wide, three bay deep, two and a half story, shingled house with full cement block basement built into a cliff on the southside of Court Avenue. It faces north on Court Avenue with its gabled roof runing north-south and is located in the midst of a gallery of buildings which comprise historic Layers Row, directly facing the Old Howard County Court House.

North Elevation

A rectangular, open bible and cross paneled entrance door on Court Avenue is surmounted by a two light transom and approached by a granite step. A rectangular, double-hung window rests in the east bay, holding six-over-six lights and decorated with white shutters and a window box. Within the A formed by the eaves rests a circular six light window.

East Elevation

The east elevation holds three similar second floor windows which from the north bay form a first floor living room.

The east wall holds a rectangular basement entrance with six lights in the south bay and a similar first floor entrance in the north bay. An iron stairway and railing run down this wall from Court Avenue while a terraced brick patio lies east.

West Elevation

The west elevation holds three similar second floor windows with a wide field stone exterior chimney almost centered into this wall.

South Elevation

The elevation of this beautifully restored house perches atop the north side of Church Roads's granite cliff, overhanging the cement block basement wall. Identical first and second floor wide, central, picture windows hold twenty four lights with six-over-six double-hung windows resting on each side. A central attic window holds six-over-six lights. This is a particularly dramatic view of the building, whose first and second floor has been extended southward by Mr. and Mrs. Bright to provide greater floor space.

During its previous ownership by Judge Macgill, the present cinderblock foundation of the house replaced a structurally unsound wooden beam foundation, which was slipping and causing the building to slope toward Church Road.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCEC.C.
Ho-437
Dist. 2

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 checked="" 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 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 1894

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The lot on which this building, formerly owned by James Macgill and later B.F. Goldberg & Thom. Mayfield, now stands was a part of a lot conveyed by David B. McLaughlin to Henry E. Wooten on July 8, 1869 (WWW29-283)

Mr. Henry E. Wooten was a lawyer in Ellicott City whose law office occupied the building just west of Mr. and Mrs. Bright's present residence. Sometime before 1894 and after 1878 this building was constructed.

On the 26 May, 1894 Ada Wooten sold the lot "together with the buildings" for \$100 to Reuben D. Johnson (JHO 61-501).

It was acquired by Edgar Van Sant of the City of Chicago, Illinois and conveyed to Madge E. Van Sant on 3 march, 1923 "together with the buildings". (HBN 117-446). James Clark, a former Circuit Court judge for Howard County had his law offices next door which was formerly occupied by Henry E. Wooten. This building was probably rented by the Van Sants as an office which passed from Mr. Mellor to Mr. Macgill who now serves as a judge for the Circuit Court of Howard County. During his tenure the building was used as an office for Dravo Engineering Company.

Five years later Judge Macgill sold the property on August 19, 1957 to B.F. Goldberg & T. H. Mayfield "together with the buildings". (302-580) T. Hunt Mayfield also served Howard County as judge to the Circuit Court.

This area along the south side of Court Avenue has been known as "Lawyer's Row". The location of these buildings across the street from the Court House provided easy access to and fro. Having no water or other facilities, lawyers and their clients used those in the court house. Granite steps three lots east of the Bright's residence lead down to Church Street and the north entrance to what was at one time the Howard House, renowned for its good German cooking. It provided a fine place for lawyers and their clients to have pleasant dining.

On October 31, 1957, T. H. Mayfield and B. F. Goldberg sold the property to the Title Company of Howard County. (306-528). On November 16, 1964 Mr. Richard J. Kinlein bought the property for use as a law office (WHH 428-107). Mr. Richard Kinlein served many years as Howard County's States Attorney. On 18 September, 1968, he sold his law office to Mr. and Mrs. Richard D.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

e.c.

Ho- 437

Dist. 2

Page 2

Bright, present owners who have made this building their home.

Architecturally this building and its neighbors on the east and west present a pleasant streetscape of one story high gabled roof, frame structures of similar scale and character. Notable as offices for lawyers who distinguished themselves in their profession, these buildings are of outstanding significance historically and architecturally and are within the present Historic District of Ellicott City, now included on the National Register of Historic Places.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ho-437
Dist. 2

CC

Howard County Land Records
Interview with Mr. Richard Kinlein, former owner, March, 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.04 Acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 25-A

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Liber 496, folio 1

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 465-5000 x257

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

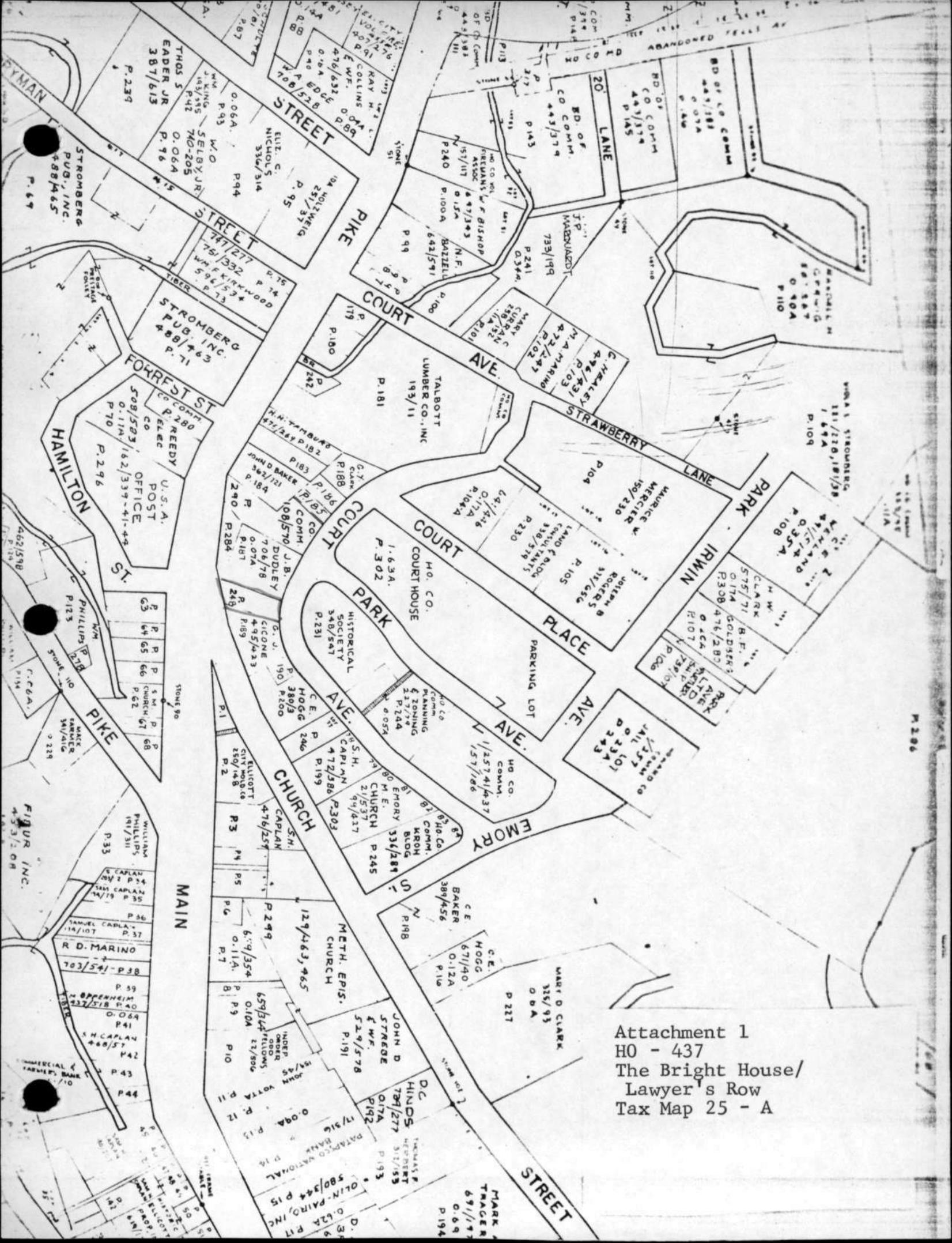
STATE

Maryland

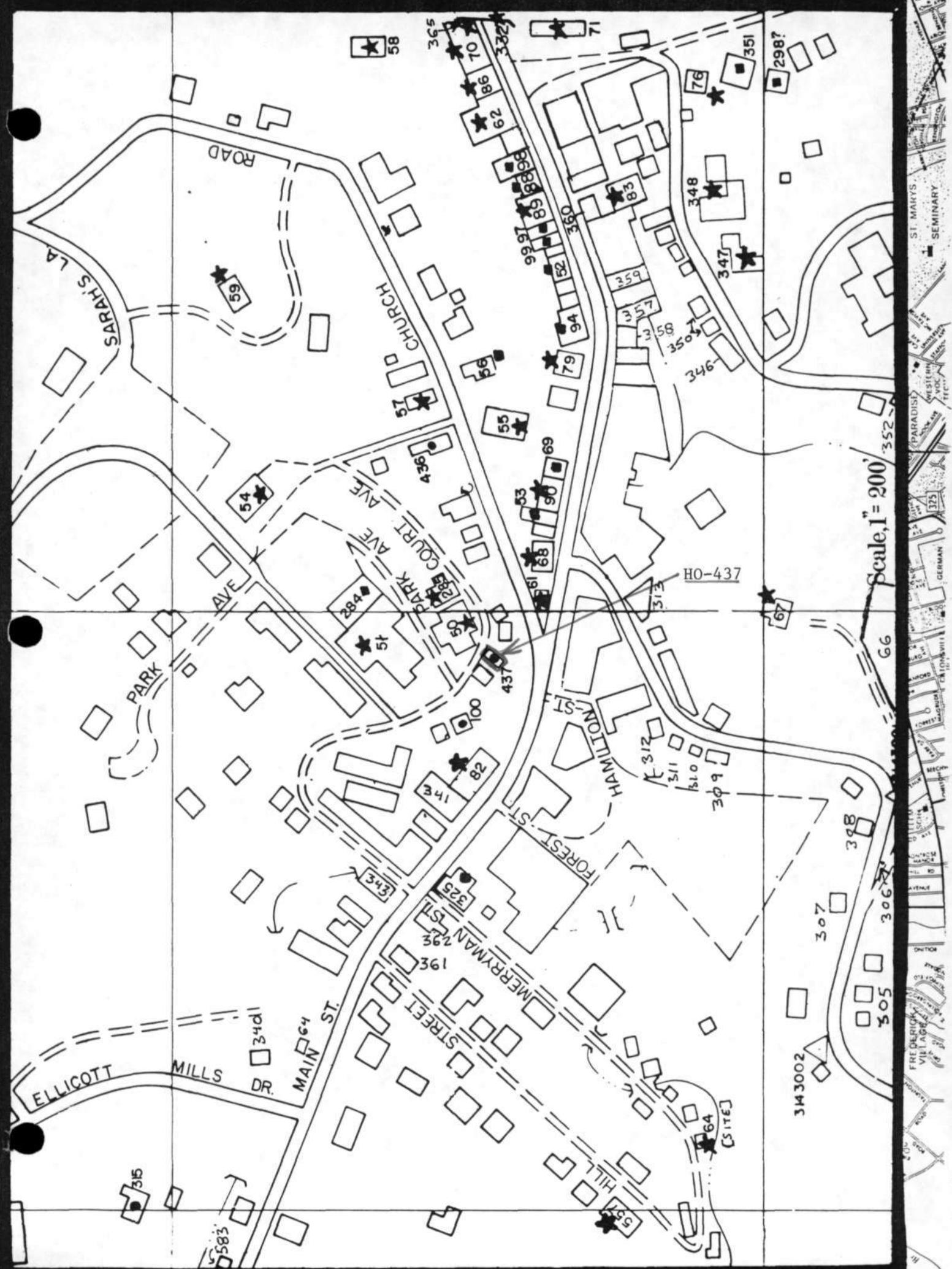
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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



Attachment 1
 HO - 437
 The Bright House/
 Lawyer's Row
 Tax Map 25 - A



Scale, 1" = 200'

HO-437



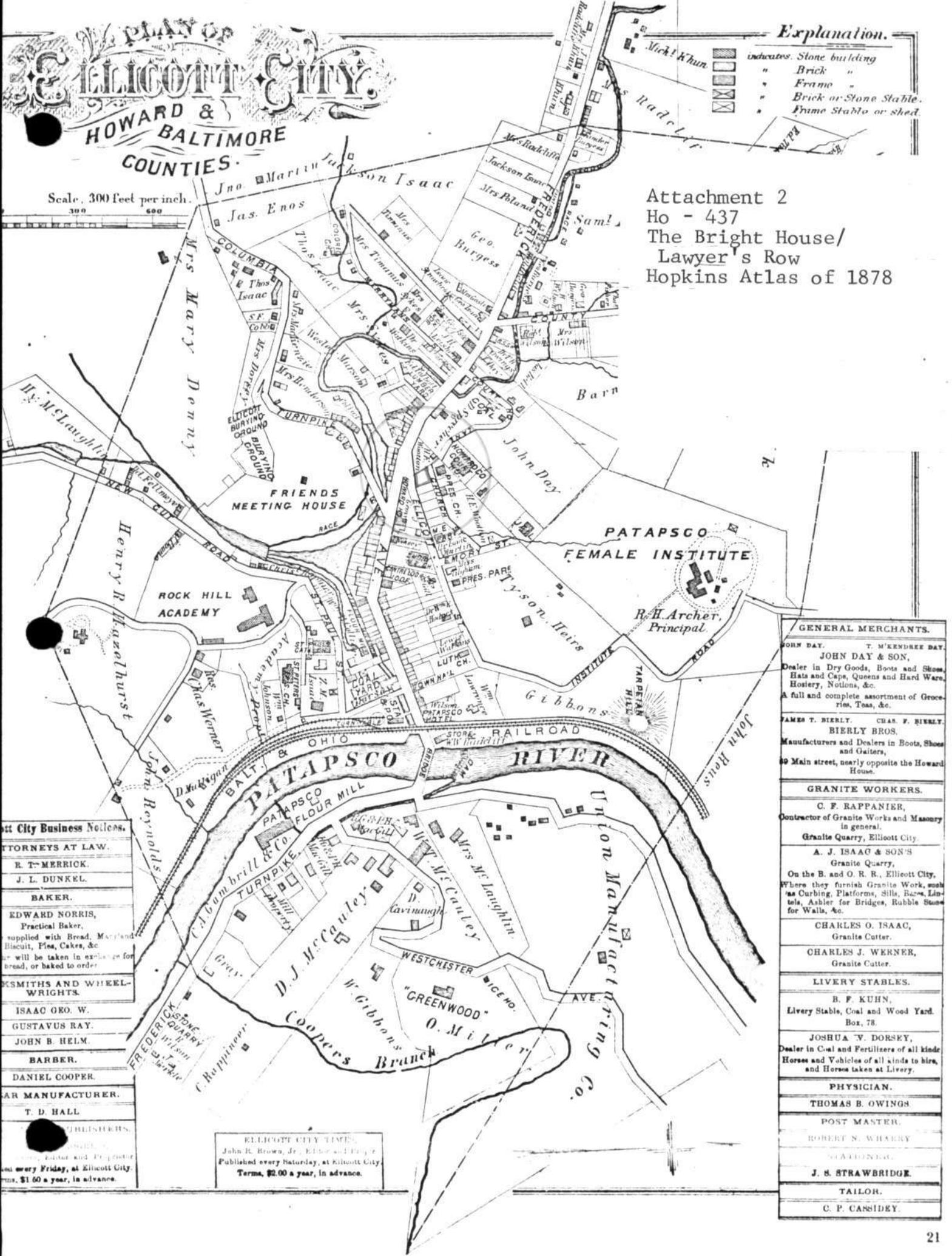
PLAN OF ELLICOTT CITY

HOWARD & BALTIMORE COUNTIES

Scale, 300 feet per inch.
300 600

Explanation.
 [Symbol] indicates Stone building
 [Symbol] " Brick "
 [Symbol] " Frame "
 [Symbol] " Brick or Stone Stable "
 [Symbol] " Frame Stable or shed "

Attachment 2
 Ho - 437
 The Bright House/
 Lawyer's Row
 Hopkins Atlas of 1878

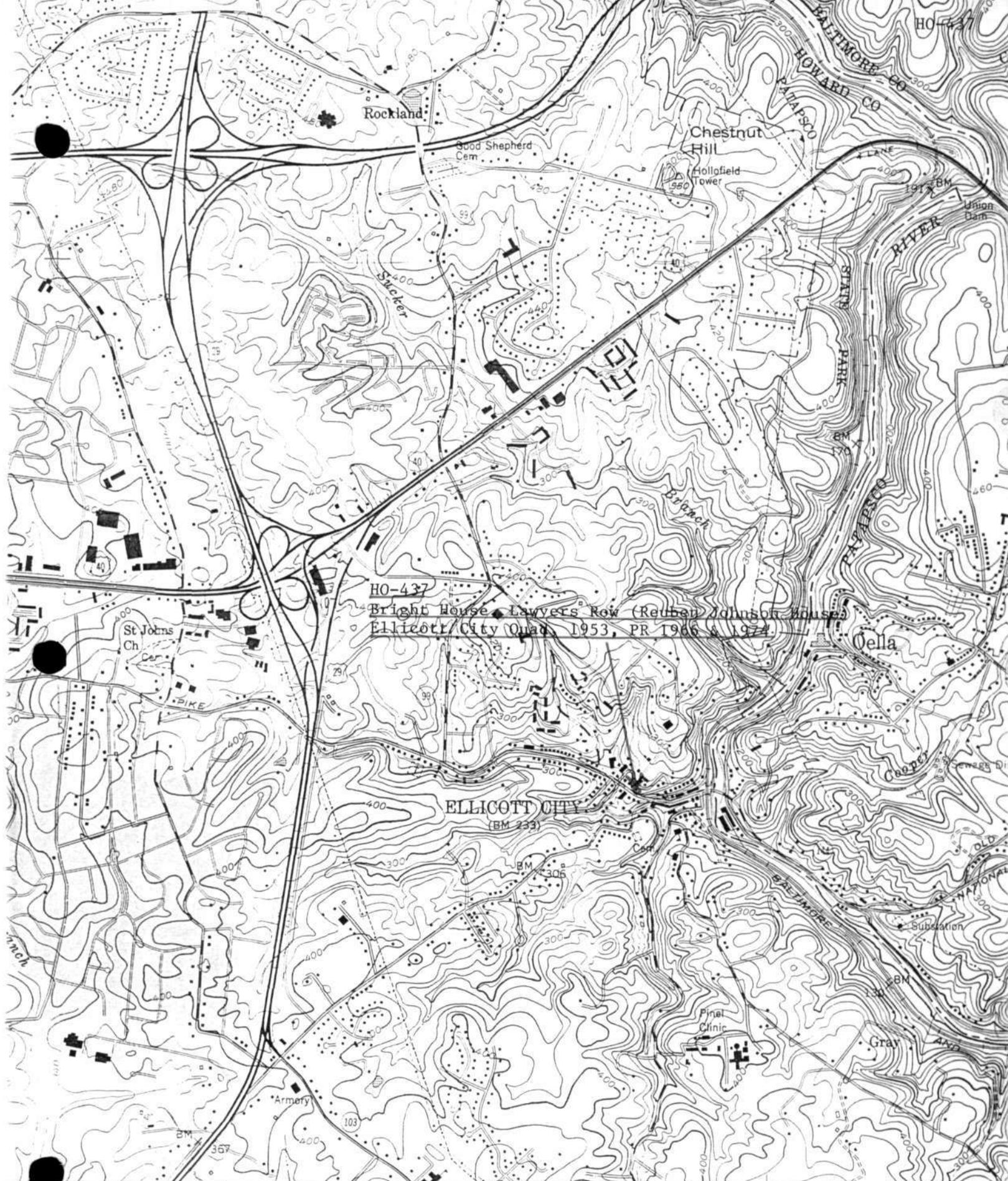


City Business Notices.
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 J. L. DUNKEL.
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 or will be taken in exchange for
 bread, or baked to order.
SMITHS AND WHEEL-
WRIGHTS.
 ISAAC ORO. W.
 GUSTAVUS RAY.
 JOHN B. HELM.
BARBER.
 DANIEL COOPER.

MANUFACTURER.
 T. D. HALL

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JAMES T. BIERLY.	CHAR. F. BIERLY.
BIERLY BROS. Manufacturers and Dealers in Boots, Shoes and Gaiters, 39 Main street, nearly opposite the Howard House.	
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J. S. STRAWBRIDGE.	
TAILOR.	
C. P. CANSIDEY.	



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COLUMN 4 5.9 MI. SILVER SPRING 21 MI.

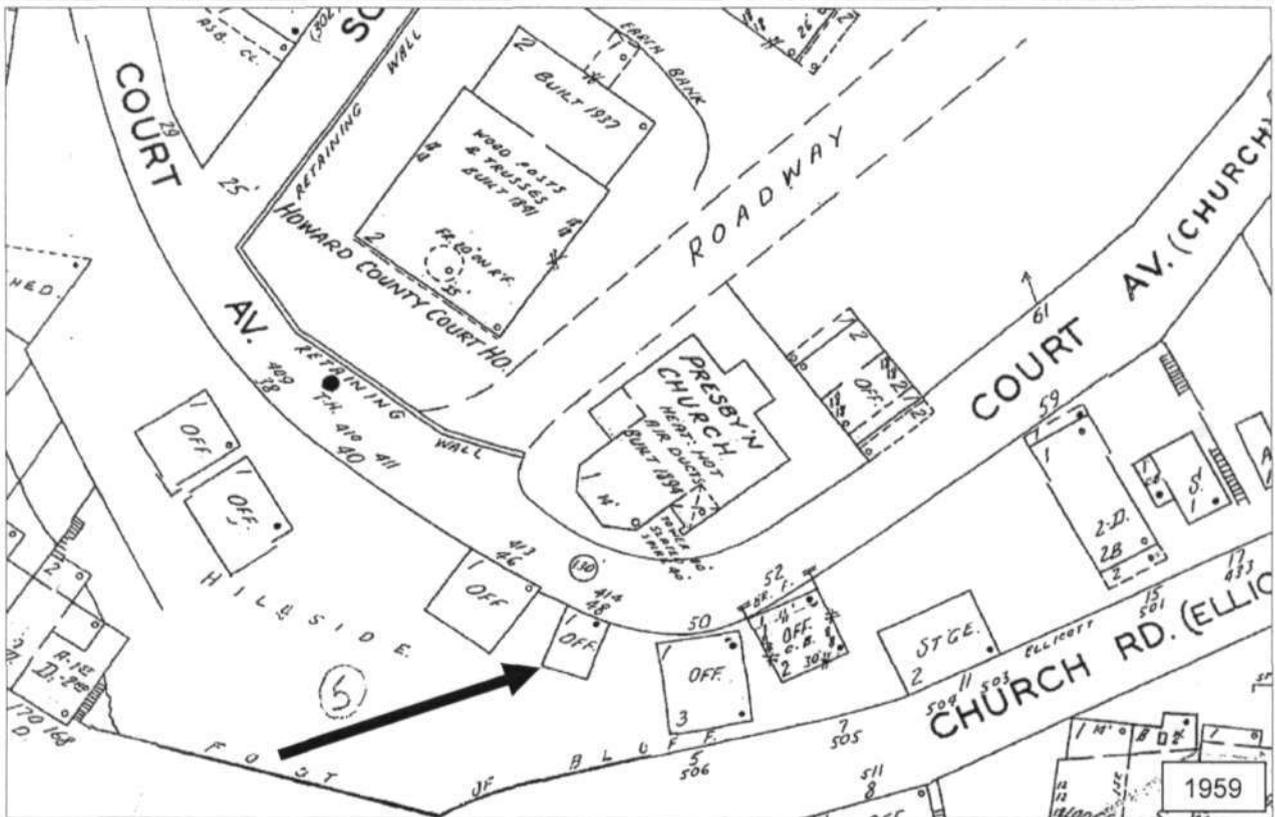
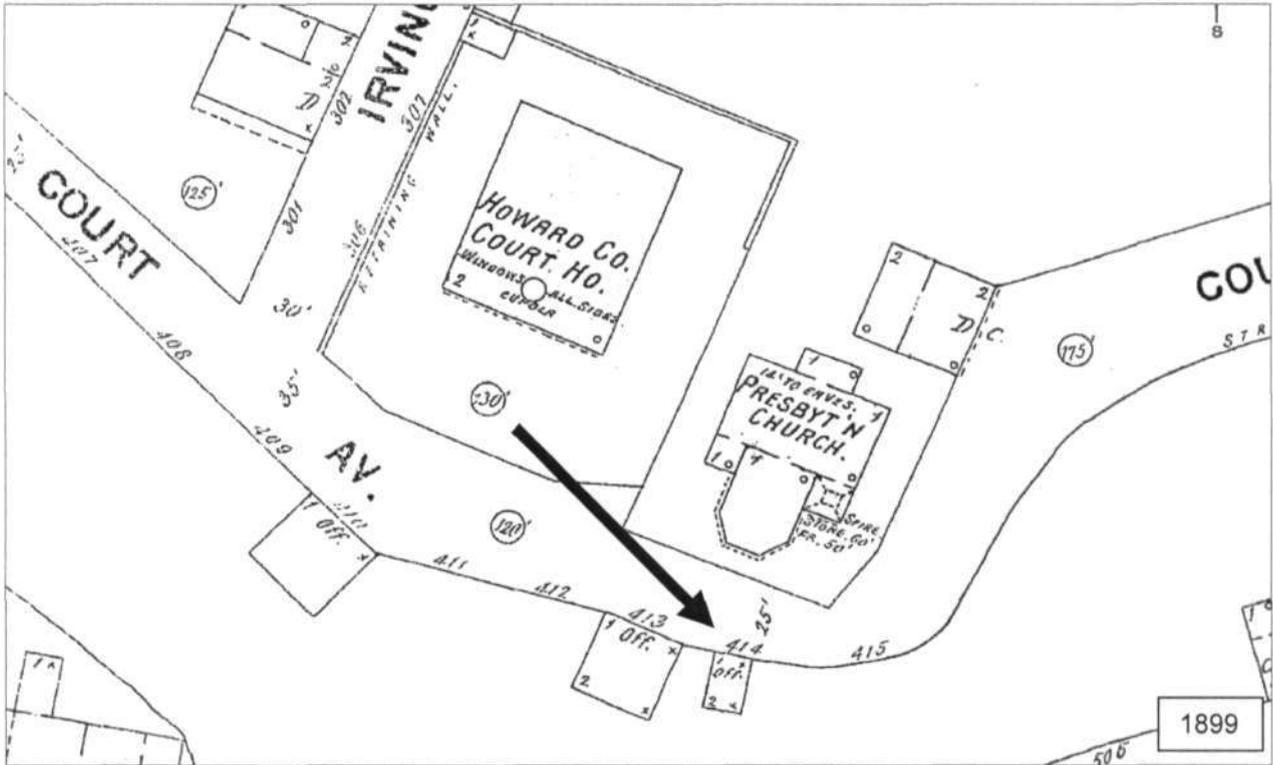
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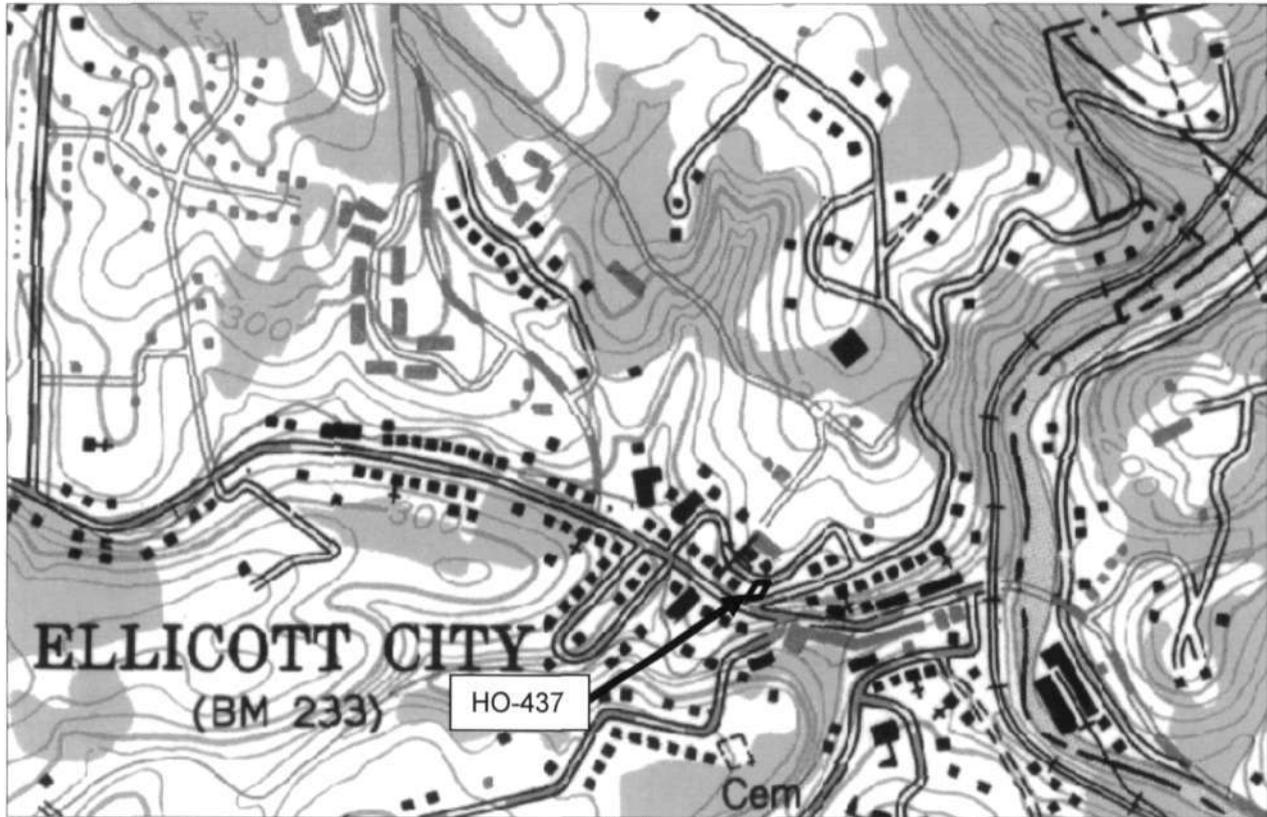
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CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET

HO-437
Bright House, Lawyers Row (Reuben Johnson House)
8343 Court Avenue, Ellicott City
Sanborn Maps



HO-437
Bright House, Lawyers Row (Reuben Johnson House)
8343 Court Avenue, Ellicott City
Ellicott City quad 1953, Photorevised 1966 and 1974



Tax Map 25A, Parcel 248

National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, c. 2010



HO-437
Bright House, Lawyers Row (Reuben Johnson House)
8343 Court Avenue, Ellicott City
Photo by Jennifer K. Cosham, 11/28/2012
East elevation



North elevation



HO-437
Bright House, Lawyers Row (Reuben Johnson House)
8343 Court Avenue, Ellicott City
Photo by Jennifer K. Cosham, 11/28/2012
West elevation from street below





Ho-437
THE BRIGHT HOUSE/
LAWYER'S ROW
(NORTHEAST)

CLEORA BARNES THOMPSON
PLANNING CONSULTANT
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY