

HO - 453  
Donaldson School/Trinity  
Ilchester  
Private

1906

The Donaldson School/Trinity is located on the south side of Ilchester Road, just west of Landing Road, on grounds once occupied by the Donaldson School, an Episcopal Boys' School in 1906, later acquired by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in 1933, who operate Trinity.

Architecturally, this building complex, constructed on a large scale and designed in the Queen Anne Style with overtones of the English Tudar and Medieval half-timbered styles, commands an outstanding site, set into a high ridge of wooded land in the middle of Ilchester.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO - 453  
Savage Quad.  
Dist. I  
MAGI #1404535702

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Donaldson School  
AND/OR COMMON  
Trinity

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Ilchester Road  
CITY, TOWN  
Ilchester  
STATE  
Maryland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
6th  
VICINITY OF  
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Baltimore Province of The Sisters of Notre Dame, Inc. Trinity School Telephone #: (301) 744-1524  
STREET & NUMBER  
Ilchester Road  
CITY, TOWN Ilchester, Maryland STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records Liber #: 373  
Folio #: 718  
STREET & NUMBER Howard County Court House Tax Map 31, p.232  
CITY, TOWN Ellicott City STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Howard County Historic Sites Inventory  
DATE 1978-1979  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust  
CITY, TOWN 21 State Circle, Annapolis STATE Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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 Donaldson School/Trinity School is located on the south side of Ilchester Road, just west of Beechwood Drive, on grounds once occupied by the Donaldson School, an Episcopal Boys' School in 1906, and later acquired by Trinity School in 1933, becoming the property of the Sisters of Notre Dame deNamur, who now operate Trinity.

Several buildings cluster around a circle. Most of these buildings were formerly used by Donaldson School. Some have been modified while others, such as "The School House" for the Donaldson School, remain intact. The building is now occupied as an office for Trinity, as well as for classrooms. This building too, has had a large north addition constructed along its north wall, but its south facade remains intact.

The Mansion, which featured a curvilinear front facade, has now become a basis for the convent, serving the school, and is now encased in brick and plaster, while the former Episcopal Chapel is now the Corpus Christi Chapel.

As the oldest building on the property, the convent was chosen for more specific description.

The Julie Billiard Hall, which now serves as the convent for Trinity, encases the original 19th century building of the Donaldson School, known as the Mansion. It faces south among a large building complex, located just east of the central circle. The original curvilinear frame facade has been completely encased in a brick and half timbered plaster facade.

The Queen Anne Style, half timbered building is composed of a central three bay wide, three bay deep, two story high, gable, slate roof (running east-west) section, which holds wide brick east and west chimneys and is flanked by east and west wings.

The west wing is a three bay wide, seven bay deep, two story high, slate intersecting gable roof (running north-south) half timbered building, resting on a stone foundation with wide brick exterior chimney centered on its north wall and a one story high, shed roofed porch running along the north side of its west wall. This section of the three-fold architectural composition was probably partially constructed on the old stone foundation of a previous dwelling, incorporating with - in its half timber exterior wall the west curve of the frame Mansion house's south facade.

On both the south side of its west wall and the centre of its south wall is located a rectangular horizontal cellar window, underlined by a projecting stone sill.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The remaining central section and east wing are constructed on a brick (laid in flemish bond brick) foundation, also featuring three light basement windows on the south facade.

The east wing is a three bay wide, three bay deep, two story high, intersecting slate gabled roof (running north-south) half timbered section, resting on a brick (laid in flemish bond brick) foundation, with central, east first floor bay window and one story high, shed roofed, screened in porch, resting on a brick foundation, running along its east wall. A one bay wide, one bay deep, one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) half timbered appendage, constructed on a brick (laid in flemish bond brick) foundation, is located on the north side of this section's east wall. Two battenwood doors are inset into the north and south sides of the east wall's brick foundation with a central staircase flanked by an iron railing servicing egress and entry to the screened in porch above.

A first floor, rectangular, sixteen light window is located in the centre of the east wall's bay window, flanked by six-over-six light windows. First floor, rectangular entrances rest in the north and south bays of the east wall. Above rest rectangular, double-hung, twelve-over-twelve light, second floor windows in the north and south bays of the east wall, flanking a central six-six light casement window.

The main entrance is located in the east bay of the central section's south wall. It is a nine light, cross paneled, rectangular entrance door, set into a curved first floor entrance wall, surmounted by a leaden paned transom and flanked by rectangular, double-hung windows, holding twelve-over-twelve lights, underlined by flat wooden sills. A one story high, shed roofed, enclosed porch covers this entrance, featuring a central, intersecting gable (running north-south) half timbered entrance porch. One wide stone step and five wooden steps, flanked by an iron railing, lead to its rectangular, double, screened-in door, flanked by five vertical side lights, a flat pilaster, five more vertical side lights and another pilaster, and surmounted by a tudor arched lintel, across which is placed a horizontal beam inscribed "Julie Billiard Hall".

Fenestration for the building is vertically aligned and proportionally scaled, and to a degree symmetrical with variations so often associated with the Queen Anne Style.

The central section of the south facade holds central bay, rectangular, double-hung windows, holding twelve-over-twelve lights, which are flanked by tripartite windows, composed of a central nine-over-nine light window, flanked by three-over-three light windows. The one element of this composition which creates variety is the entrance located in the east bay of this section.

In the case of the east and west wings, they are of identical height and width on the south facade but vary in window treatment. The east wing holds a central bay twelve-over-twelve light windows,

flanked by nine-over-nine light windows, while the west wing holds nine-over-nine light windows only.

To this building several north and west additions have been made which combine with other building's north and west to form today's Trinity School complex.

The Corpus Christi Chapel, Saint Mary's Hall and Saint Ludwine's Hall were originally the original Chapel, headmaster's house and boys' school respectively for the Donaldson School.

Today they serve Trinity as the Chapel, part of the convent and the office respectively. Some cottages, which were originally constructed west of the central complex for faculty members of Donaldson, have now been connected and form the Lower School for Trinity.

This unusual building complex, constructed on the grand scale and designed in the Queen Anne Style with overtones of the English Tudor and Medieval half timbered styles commands an outstanding site, set into a high ridge of wooded land in the middle of Ilchester, overlooking the Patapsco River.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

Page 1 of 2

HO - 453  
Savage Quad.  
Dist. I

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> History

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Donaldson School/Trinity is significant historically and architecturally to Howard County and the State of Maryland.

Architecturally, this building complex, constructed on the grand scale and designed in the Queen Anne Style with overtones of the English Tudor and Medieval half timbered styles, commands an outstanding site, set into a high ridge of wooded land in the Middle of Ilchester, overlooking the Patapsco River. The site of Ilchester, not only attracted the Episcopal Church, which founded Donaldson School in 1906, but it also attracted the Redemptonist Order, who built St. Mary's College and Chapel east of what is now Trinity, and the Girl Scouts of America, who operate Camp Ilchester to the west.

The Donaldson School was located here from 1906-1933, for some twenty-seven years. Here several buildings were constructed around a circle in a Queen Anne Style, with predominantly English Half-Timbered Medieval overtones.

The Boy's School for Donaldson, now St. Ludwine's Hall, occupied as an office for Trinity, features a more formal style, which might be called almost Jacobethan Revival. The informality of the cluster of the buildings lends a certain liveliness and charm to the complex. The circle is not closed but opens up, commanding a view of the large fields sloping southward, with woods to the west.

The convent has already been described in detail. See #7. It encases the original building on the property, the Mansion, and features a brick foundation for its three sectional building, with half timbering above. It lies somewhat east of the circle, connected to Saint Mary's Hall, once occupied by the Head Master at Donaldson.

The building complex, because of its continuity and rythm, caused by the Queen Anne Style taking a common English Medieval Theme, results in a predominantly horizontal feeling, with the tall bell tower offering the strong vertical focal point north east of the circle.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

his rounded brick tower is outstanding for its brick work, replacing a more rustic tower. It is connected to the present convent by a cloister, constructed shortly after Donaldson was acquired by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namurs.

The importance of this architectural complex is that it exemplifies a great deal of individuality exhibited in the separate and unique character of each of the buildings, while blending and uniting in a common, loosely constructed theme.

Circles are circular but not rigidly so. They open up, while buildings are randomly spaced, attempting to break rigid form.

Historically, the complex is important both religiously and educationally. Traditionally education has been coupled with religious activity, and numerous schools founded by various churches.

Evidently a Miss Donaldson of Calvary Episcopal Church in Baltimore left an endowment for an Episcopal School, which began in Baltimore and moved to Ilchester in 1906. In 1933 they sold the property to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. This order was founded in 1804 in Amiens, France by a young peasant girl, Julie Brilliart, who had been miraculously healed. The co-foundress of the Order was the Countess Francois Blain de Bourdon. In 1969 Julie Brilliart was canonized.

The Order moved to Namur, Belgium, sending out groups to America in 1840, after being invited by a visiting American Bishop from Ohio. Later the Order went to Oregon and today it is on every Continent except Australia. The Order does missionary work, but is mainly a teaching Order of the Roman Catholic Church.

Trinity has been operated by this Order for almost fifty years, at one time having the only Catholic High School in Howard County. It is now a co-educational elementary school, kindergarten through eighth grade.

Architecturally and historically significant, The Donaldson School/Trinity should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, The State Critical Areas Program and any local landmark ordinance which the citizens of Howard County might initiate, should its owners so desire.

HO - 453  
Relay Quad.  
Dist. 1

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Donaldson School, Ilchester, Maryland  
A handbook published by The Donaldson School, 1931-32.

Interview with Sister Catherine Phelps, Principal of Trinity, Sr. Margaret  
Therese (301) 744-1524  
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber \_\_\_\_\_ Folio \_\_\_\_\_

### 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

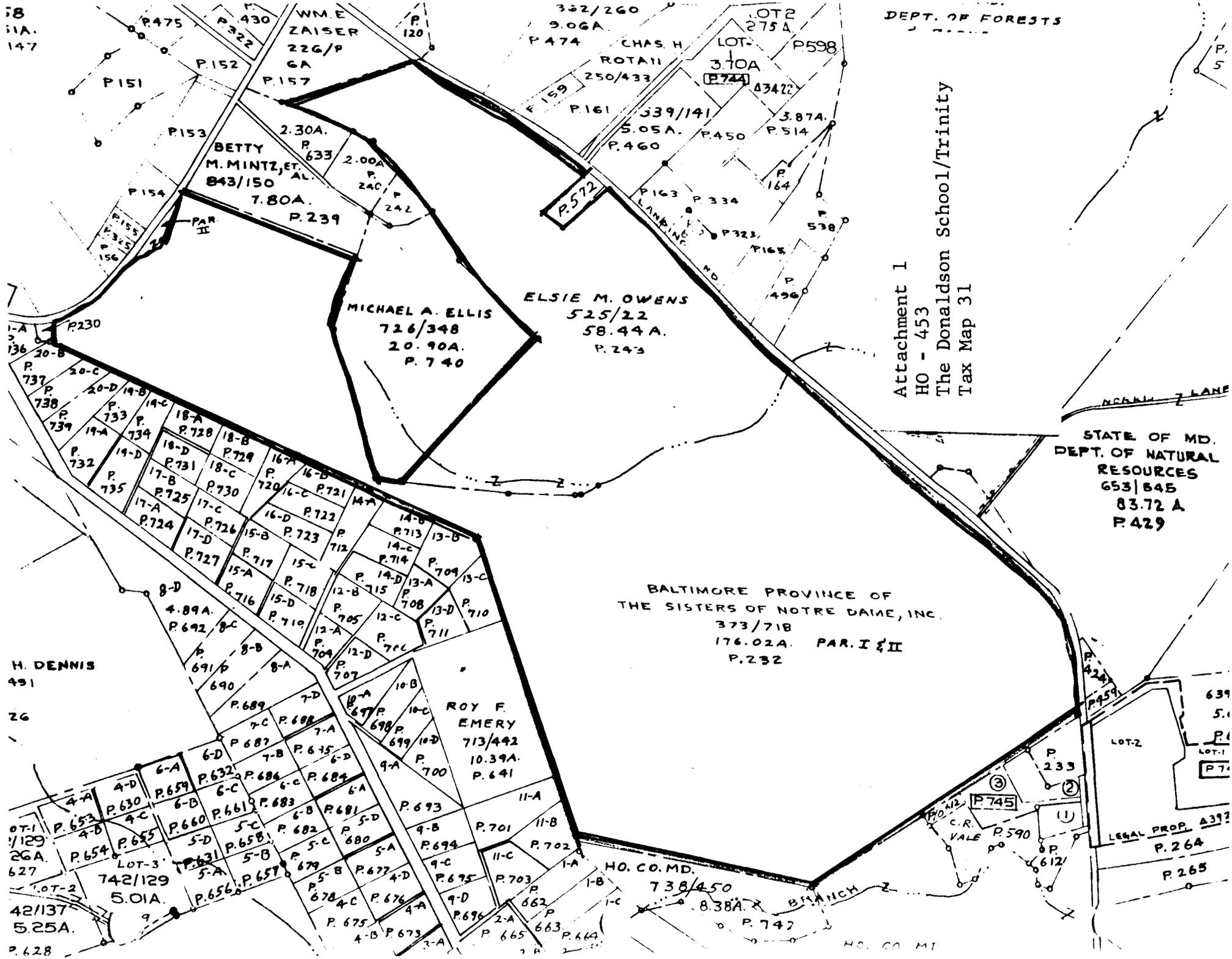
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

18  
11A.  
147

DEPT. OF FORESTS



BETTY  
M. MINTZ, ET. AL.  
843/150

MICHAEL A. ELLIS  
726/348  
20.90A.  
P. 740

ELSIE M. OWENS  
525/22  
58.44A.  
P. 243

ROY F.  
EMERY  
713/442  
10.39A.  
P. 641

BALTIMORE PROVINCE OF  
THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME, INC.  
373/718  
176.02A. PAR. I & II  
P. 232

Attachment I  
HO - 453  
The Donaldson School/Trinity  
Tax Map 31

STATE OF MD.  
DEPT. OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
653/845  
83.72 A  
P. 429

H. DENNIS  
491

26

42/137  
5.25A.  
P. 628

639  
5.1  
P. 70

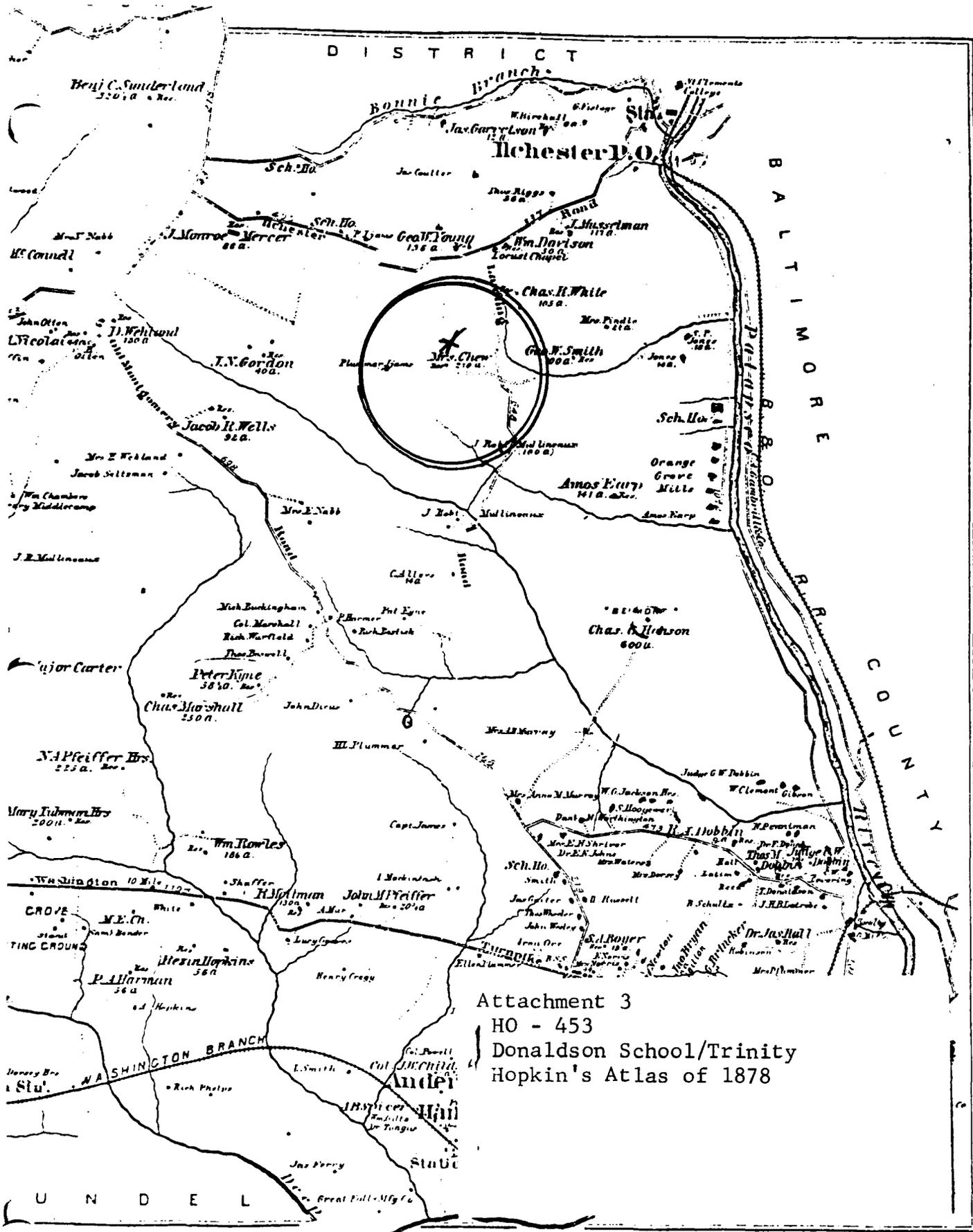
LEGAL PROP. A392  
P. 264  
P. 265

HO. CO. MD.  
738/450

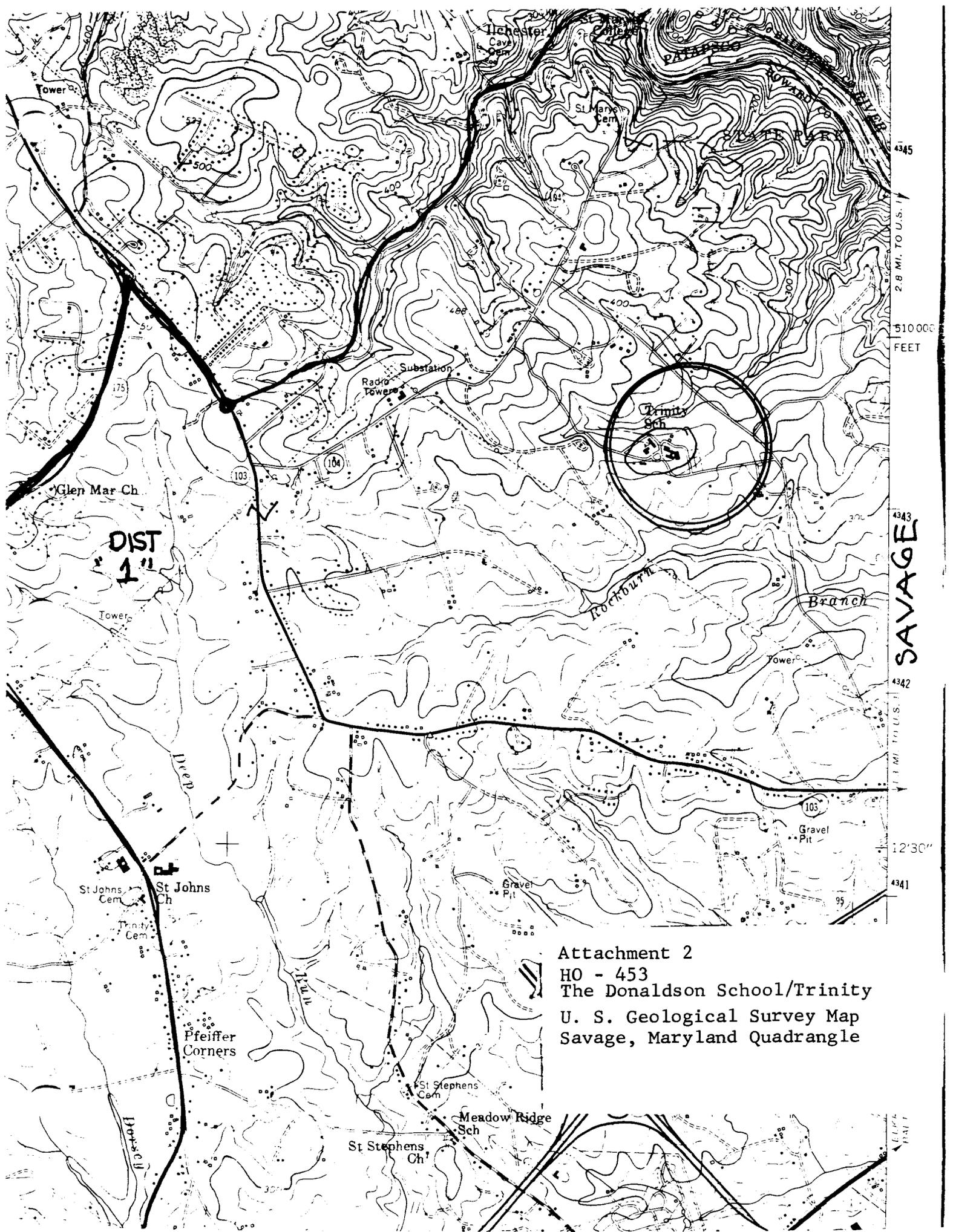
HO. CO. MD.

Attachment 4  
HO - 453  
Donaldson School/Trinity  
1860 Martenet Map





Attachment 3  
 HO - 453  
 Donaldson School/Trinity  
 Hopkin's Atlas of 1878



Attachment 2  
HO - 453  
The Donaldson School/Trinity  
U. S. Geological Survey Map  
Savage, Maryland Quadrangle

SAVAGE

PLATE 1



H0-453

DONALDSON SCHOOL / TRINITY

(SOUTH)

NOV '79

CEDAR RAPIDS DISTRICT, AICP  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
HISTORICAL SURVEY