

HO-507

Collins-Earp Farm

9200 Farmhouse Road (formerly 7435 Oakland Mills Road)

Public

DESCRIPTION:

The brick house and some grave stones are all that survive from the Collins-Earp Farm. They are set on a generally flat open site, set well back from the road, with new construction between Oakland Mills Road and the house. The house faces west toward Oakland Mills Road. The house is a two-story, five-bay by two-bay brick structure of mostly seven-to-one common bond, with some six-, eight-, and ten-to-one common bond. It has a rubble stone foundation with ashlar at the corners and in the top course. There is a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a north-south ridge. Both gable ends have an interior brick chimney. There is a bracketed cornice with returns and the house has a wide eave overhang. There is a shorter two-story, two-bay by two-bay wing on the north gable end, and the foundation, walls, and roof match that of the main block. The west wall of the wing is recessed back from the plane of the main block. There is an interior brick chimney on the north gable end of the wing. The west elevation has a center doorway. The house has a center-passage, single-pile plan on the first story, but the stairway has been rebuilt and part of one passage wall moved. The entire first and second stories have been covered with carpeting, paneling, and drop ceilings, leaving no historic features visible. The chimneys project into the north and south rooms, but are covered with paneling and have no mantels. The second story has two rooms to each side, with a small room at the west end of the passage. The attic rafters are supported by purlins that are hewn, re-used material, and they are canted and supported by purlin struts with braces.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Ephraim Collins purchased a 171 1/2-acre farm from Hammond and Lucretia Dorsey in 1852. This farm had been part of the property of Lucretia's father, Elisha Brown (of Samuel). In 1870 he was assessed for a house, valued at \$500, and the following year for a barn, valued at \$700. It is likely that the assessed house was the surviving brick house. The building has few historic features left with which to date it, since the stair and mantels have apparently been removed and most of the trim work is either gone or hidden. The brickwork, with seven-to-one bond predominating, is most common after the Civil War, and certainly would not date before 1850. Collins built a standard Georgian/Federal center-passage farmhouse with some stylish details to add a touch of refinement, and details like the bracketed cornice would more commonly be found after the Civil War. After the death of Ephraim Collins the farm was offered at public sale in 1890. The eventual purchaser was A. Howard Earp, husband of Ephraim Collins' daughter, Susie. It was still in his family's possession when it was condemned and taken by the Federal Communications Commission in 1941. Part of the FCC's mission was to monitor communications to ensure that public airwaves were being used appropriately, and in the lead-up to World War II this mission increasingly included intercepting foreign communications. The FCC continues to use the house for offices.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-507

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Collins-Earp Farm

other

2. Location

street and number 9200 Farmhouse Road (formerly 7435 Oakland Mills Road) not for publication

city, town Jessup vicinity

county Howard

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

name Federal Communications Commission

street and number 7435 Oakland Mills Road telephone 301-725-1996

city, town Columbia state MD zip code 21046-1609

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 170 folio 198

city, town Ellicott City tax map 42 tax parcel 230 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	7
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	0
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	9
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-507

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 brick house and some grave stones are all that survive from the Collins-Earp Farm. They are set on a generally flat open site, set well back from the road, with new construction between Oakland Mills Road and the house. The house faces west toward Oakland Mills Road. The house is a two-story, five-bay by two-bay brick structure of mostly seven-to-one common bond, with some six-, eight-, and ten-to-one common bond. It has a rubble stone foundation with ashlar at the corners and in the top course. There is a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a north-south ridge. Both gable ends have an interior brick chimney. There is a bracketed cornice with returns and the house has a wide eave overhang. There is a shorter two-story, two-bay by two-bay wing on the north gable end, and the foundation, walls, and roof match that of the main block. The west wall of the wing is recessed back from the plane of the main block. There is an interior brick chimney on the north gable end of the wing. The west elevation has a center doorway. The house has a center-passage, single-pile plan on the first story, but the stairway has been rebuilt and part of one passage wall moved. The entire first and second stories have been covered with carpeting, paneling, and drop ceilings, leaving no historic features visible. The chimneys project into the north and south rooms, but are covered with paneling and have no mantels. The second story has two rooms to each side, with a small room at the west end of the passage. The attic rafters are supported by purlins that are hewn, re-used material, and they are canted and supported by purlin struts with braces.

DESCRIPTION:

The Collins-Earp Farm is located at 9200 Farmhouse Road (formerly 7435 Oakland Mills Road) near Guilford in southeastern Howard County, Maryland. The brick house and some grave stones are all that survive from the farm. They are set on a generally flat open site, set well back from the road, with new construction between Oakland Mills Road and the house. The house faces west toward Oakland Mills Road.

House, exterior

The house is a two-story, five-bay by two-bay brick structure of mostly seven-to-one common bond, with some six-, eight-, and ten-to-one common bond. It has a rubble stone foundation with ashlar at the corners and in the top course, with much of the rubble brought to course. There is a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a north-south ridge. Both gable ends have an interior brick chimney. There is a shorter two-story, two-bay by two-bay wing on the north gable end, and the foundation, walls, and roof match that of the main block. The west wall of the wing is recessed back from the plane of the main block. There is an interior brick chimney on the north gable end of the wing.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-507

Name Collins-Earp Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

On the west elevation of the main block the foundation openings have been narrowed with brick on each side. The west elevation has a center doorway on the first story that has paired two-panel doors that were installed in the twentieth century. There are side lights with three lights over one panel, and they have sunken flat panels with quirked ogee-and-bead panel moulds. There is a transom that has five large lights and the transom bar has a cavetto-and-bead moulding. In the center bay is a new porch with a concrete deck, aluminum, and a gable roof. There are all new six-over-six sash in wrapped frames and sills, with fake shutters and splayed brick jack arches. The second story has a tripartite sash in the center bay, with new sash in an original opening. There are two six-over-six sash to either side of this opening. There is a bracketed cornice with returns and the house has a wide eave overhang. The west elevation of the wing has two typical windows on both the first and second stories. The cornice consists of three courses of corbelled brick.

On the south elevation the first and second stories have no openings. There are attachments in the center of the wall for a lightning rod. The gable end has two louvered vents with splayed brick jack arches. The cornice is wrapped in aluminum.

On the east elevation the foundation window openings have been narrowed with brick on each side. The first story has a new door in the center with infill above, and probably had a transom. The north-center bay has a new door in what is a converted window opening. There is a new two-bay porch covering the two doorways. The other three bays have windows that match the west elevation, and the second story has five windows that match the west elevation. The cornice is covered in aluminum and there are no brackets. The east elevation of the wing is in the same plane as the main block and has aluminum siding and new windows and doors. It has a brick end wall on the north end. This was originally a two-story porch that was one bay deep, with a brick end wall to the wing. It was enclosed at an unknown date. The north elevation has ashlar at the corners, but not on the top course of foundation stone. There is a doorway cut through in the foundation. There are no openings on the first story, second story, or gable end. The roof pitch is flatter on the enclosed porch bay than on the rest of the wing. The house has a wide eave overhang on this elevation, and it is also wrapped in aluminum.

House, interior

The house has a center-passage, single-pile plan on the first story, but the stairway has been rebuilt and part of one passage wall moved. The entire first story has been covered with carpeting, paneling, and drop ceilings, leaving no historic features visible. The chimneys project into the north and south rooms, but are covered with paneling and have no mantels. The second story has two rooms to each side, with a small room at the west end of the passage, and again the interior has been completely covered with carpeting, paneling, and drop ceilings hiding all historic features. There is a narrow enclosed stair to the attic in the west central chamber, and the walls have circular-sawn lath fastened with cut nails, and plastered. The door to the attic is hung on butt hinges with ball finials. It has tongue-and-grooved

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-507

Name Collins-Earp Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

vertical boards that have a small rabbet in the center of each board on the interior side. It has a cast iron rim lock with a new knob. The wing also has no historic features visible. The chimney on the north end is covered by paneling on the first story and is deeper than the other chimneys, suggesting that it was a cooking fireplace.

In the basement, the first-story joists are circular-sawn, are $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 inches, and are spaced $17\frac{1}{4}$ to $19\frac{1}{4}$ inches on centers. The joists run north-south in the center passage and east-west under the north and south rooms. They have cross-bracing with cut nails, some of the nail heads being plain and others have a raised square head. The flooring above is circular-sawn 3- and $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wide boards in the passage. The south passage wall is stone with brick jambs for the doorway. The north passage wall is a reused hewn beam with CMU posts beneath it, and the beam was cut through later. The beam has abandoned mortises, some of them dapped. The floor in the north room is circular-sawn and is 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. The floor in the south room is also circular-sawn and is $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 inches wide. In the south basement room the south wall has three pieces of granite that are corbelled from the wall, and these stones have drill holes. There are then five corbelled courses of brick on top of the stone, and the corbelled end of the top course sits on a ledger board nailed to the side of the fireplace header with cut nails that have raised square heads. The north room north wall was constructed in the same manner as the south room south wall, but it has been altered to take the furnace flue. The header has a through-tenon with exposed pegs, and the header is doubled up. There is a concrete floor in the basement, and the level has been lowered slightly. The west windows have been covered over while the east windows have new sash.

The wing basement appears to have been a crawl space originally and was excavated later and a doorway cut through. It has a concrete floor. The first-story joists are hewn and some are still round on the bottom. They are 5 to 6 inches wide by 6 to $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep and are spaced $27\frac{1}{2}$ to $30\frac{1}{2}$ inches on centers. The joists are reused and have some abandoned mortises. There is cross bracing fastened with cut nails, and the nails are very much rusted. The flooring above is gauged and undercut in the wrong places, and is also apparently reused. It is sash-sawn and is 5 to $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide. The hearth on the north end is supported by several wide boards that run east-west and are set on ledger boards at the east and west ends that are nailed with cut nails. The header and trimmers are mortised and tenoned, and are toe-nailed with cut nails.

The attic is partially floored. The joists are circular-sawn, run east-west, and are $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide by $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep. They are lapped in the center, and it is not possible to see any connection between the joists. The length of the lap varies, but is generally between 12 and 16 inches. The joists are spaced 16 inches on centers. The joists sit on a beam in the center that must be the center partition wall, and they are toe-nailed into that beam with what appears to be cut nail heads. The rafters are circular-sawn and are 3 inches wide by 4 inches deep, though one or two are only $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. They are mitered and

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-507

Name Collins-Earp Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 3

butted at the ridge and are mitered at the foot and sit on a thick false plate. The false plate is about 3 inches deep by 7 inches wide. The ends of the joists are notched so that the false plate sits flush with the tops of the joists. The rafters do not align with the joists. The centers of the rafters are supported by purlins that are hewn, re-used material, and they are canted and supported by purlin struts with braces. The struts and braces are also re-used material. The purlin strut has a mortise with a peg hole and the brace has a tenon through the mortise, but it is not pegged. This joint is toe-nailed with cut nails that have roughly square heads with a raised rectangular center that is sharply defined. The purlins are half-lapped at the struts and are notched for the deeper rafters about $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch. The strut has a tenon into the purlin, but there is no peg or nail visible. One of these struts is pit-sawn. The scarf joints are toe-nailed with these same nails. The bottom of the strut and brace are tenoned into a log set between the joists and toe nailed with the same nails. This log is flattened on the top and bottom. It is not possible to see the outer end of the log, though it probably sits on the wall. The inner end of the log is cut off, and this is not a recent alteration but appears to have been built this way. It is not possible to determine what is supporting the inner end of these logs, but they fall short of the center partition wall that supports the joists. The bottom chords of the trusses stop short of the exterior brick walls on the east and west, and are set on top of the partition walls of the center passage. The beam that they sit on is visible, but not accessible to be measured. One of these bottom cords has a V-notch on the end and another is sawed off, with a peg hole in the end. These must have been taken from a log building with at least one doorway in it.

There is a riven and shaved shingle in the attic that is 6 inches by 20 inches, with a 6-inch weather. The shingle appears to have been installed with only one nail and the nail was covered by the shingle above. There is also a circular-sawn wood shingle in the attic that was never installed. The bricks are hand-made and were burned in a clamp, and some of them have glazed ends. The rafters support circular-sawn shingle lath and plywood. The second-story ceiling also has circular-sawn lath with plaster. The flooring is a mix of boards, the oldest material being circular-sawn butted boards with wire nails, and these were either reused or taken up and re-laid. The bricks are 2 inches tall and $8\frac{1}{8}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and 4 to $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches wide. The outer wythe on the gable ends is carried up higher than the two inner wythes. The purlins rest on the two inner wythes. The rafters are toe-nailed to the purlins with the typical cut nails with raised square centers.

In the wing attic the rafters are hewn and are re-used, with abandoned half-laps for the collar beams; these beams were nailed originally. The rafters are mitered and butted at the ridge and support new board sheathing. There are marriage marks that are cut off and that do not match the opposite rafter couple. The rafters are tapered and are mitered at the foot and rest on a board false plate; they are not set over top of the joists. The rafters are toe-nailed at the ridge with the raised-square-head cut nails. The joists are sash-sawn and are approximately 3 inches by 8 inches. They are probably reused, though

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-507

Name Collins-Earp Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 4

this is not certain, and they have holes in the top face to tighten up flooring when it is installed, but there is no flooring here.

Also on the property, just behind the historic house, are a large one-story trailer used as offices, two butler buildings used as garages, and two large dish antennas. About 1500 feet west of the historic house is a large one-story modern office building, a 1 ½-story brick Cape Cod house, a shed outbuilding, and a two-story modern brick garage or shop building, all of which were not investigated and are not considered historic.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-507

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input 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 c. 1869

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:

Ephraim Collins purchased a 171 1/2-acre farm from Hammond and Lucretia Dorsey in 1852. This farm had been part of the property of Lucretia's father, Elisha Brown (of Samuel). In 1870 he was assessed for a house, valued at \$500, and the following year for a barn, valued at \$700. It is likely that the assessed house was the surviving brick house. The building has few historic features left with which to date it, since the stair and mantels have apparently been removed and most of the trim work is either gone or hidden. The brickwork, with seven-to-one bond predominating, is most common after the Civil War, and certainly would not date before 1850. Collins built a standard Georgian/Federal center-passage farmhouse with some stylish details to add a touch of refinement, and details like the bracketed cornice would more commonly be found after the Civil War. After the death of Ephraim Collins the farm was offered at public sale in 1890. The eventual purchaser was A. Howard Earp, husband of Ephraim Collins' daughter, Susie. It was still in his family's possession when it was condemned and taken by the Federal Communications Commission in 1941. Part of the FCC's mission was to monitor communications to ensure that public airwaves were being used appropriately, and in the lead-up to World War II this mission increasingly included intercepting foreign communications. The FCC continues to use the house for offices.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Collins-Earp Farm was earlier named the Brown-Collins-Earp House because the wing of the building was dated to c. 1813, when the Brown family owned the farm, with the main block of the house attributed to either Hammond Dorsey or Ephraim Collins. Brown family tombstones are still aligned along the drive back to the house. However, the whole house clearly dates to after the Civil War, and it is the only surviving building on what was the farm.¹

¹ Cleora Barnes Thompson, "Brown-Collins-Earp House" (HO-507), *Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties*, Maryland Historical Trust, n.d.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-507

Name Collins-Earp Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Ephraim Collins purchased a 171 ½-acre farm from Hammond and Lucretia Dorsey for \$2,572 in 1852. This farm was on part of the tract known as "Warfield's Contrivance." The Dorseys lived to the north of this farm, on 202 acres of "New Years Gift" that Hammond co-inherited from his father, John Dorsey, who died in 1820. Hammond's mother, Sarah Hammond Dorsey, released her right of dower in 1840 and Hammond purchased a portion of the 566-acre farm from his siblings. The farm that the Dorseys sold to Collins had been part of the property of Lucretia's father, Elisha Brown (of Samuel). After his death in 1832 she inherited it along with a brother and sister, and they must have subdivided the farm, though no partition of the property has been located. J. D. Warfield reported in 1905:

"Samuel Brown, Jr., also came into possession of the homestead of "Brown's Purchase," near Guilford. He deeded this to his brother, Elisha Brown, the surveyor of Anne Arundel. His wife was Ann Ray. It descended to their daughter Lucretia, who became the wife of Hammond Dorsey. By them the old homestead was sold to Ephraim Collins. Its handsome brick mansion is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earp."

This account suggests that the old Brown homestead was still standing on the Collins-Earp Farm. However, there are numerous features of the house, plus some historical records, that suggest that this was not the case. In 1852 the tax assessment record for Hammond Dorsey releases him from 172 acres, which was sold to Ephraim Collins. The property was assessed for only \$1,204. Collins total assessment in 1852 was \$1,905, so most of this assessment would have been attributable to the farm he had just purchased. Collins was using slave labor on the farm. After the Civil War most Howard County farmers struggled, without the cheaper labor of enslaved African-Americans available to them, but Collins seems to have adjusted. In 1870 he was assessed for a house, valued at \$500, and the following year for a barn, valued at \$700. While the house could have been a tenant house that we now know nothing of, it is more likely that the assessed house was the surviving brick house. This building probably would have been valued at more than \$500, but the old house was part of Collins' total assessment, and this was not deducted from his assessment when it was replaced with the new structure.²

The building has few historic features left with which to date it, since the stair and mantels have apparently been removed and most of the trim work is either gone or hidden. The brickwork, with seven-to-one bond predominating, is most common after the Civil War, and certainly would not date before 1850. The sidelights and transom could date to as early as the second quarter of the nineteenth century, and the moulding, with an ogee and bead, would be consistent with this period. After 1850 one

² Harry Wright Newman, *Anne Arundel Gentry*, v. 2 (Lewes, DE: Colonial Roots, 1971), pp. 201-02. Howard District, Anne Arundel County Land Records, 1-131; 1-135. Elisha Brown (of Samuel) Will TTS 1-140, Register of Wills, Anne Arundel County Circuit Court, Maryland State Archives. J. D. Warfield, *Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland* (Baltimore: Kohn & Pollock, 1905), p. 492. Howard County Commissioners, Transfer Book, 1852-1871, Maryland State Archives.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-507

Name Collins-Earp Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

would expect ogee and bevel mouldings, though the earlier mouldings are occasionally found. The bracketed Italianate cornice could be found in the late 1850s, though rarely, and in those instances the house is much more elaborate and Italianate in character. Collins built a standard Georgian/Federal center-passage farmhouse with some stylish details to add a touch of refinement, and details like this cornice would more commonly be found after the Civil War. The roof framing holds the most clues about the history of the house. The larger timbers in the roof are re-used material from an unknown building, and they are all fastened together with a cut nail (with a raised square head) that is not common but is generally seen after the Civil War. The rafters are circular-sawn and mitered and butted at the ridge, rather than pegged, and this construction technique is generally only found after 1850. The first-story joists are circular-sawn and have cross-bracing with cut nails, some of the nail heads being plain and others having a raised square head. Cross-bracing, too, is a construction technique generally only found after 1850. The wing construction is consistent with the main block, and there is no reason to think that it was built at an earlier time. The use of log joists here probably reflects the fact that they were set over a crawl space rather than an excavated basement. The center tripartite window of the second story is a feature that was apparently introduced to Howard County at "Oakland" in 1810. It was used sparingly, and seems to have been replaced by paired windows in the mid-nineteenth century, as at "Woodlawn." Given the dates for other elements of this house, however, the use of the tripartite window here seems to be a late, conservative survival rather than indicative of an earlier date of construction. One could argue that the entire roof was replaced on the house, but the brickwork and the consistent use of one type of cut nail throughout the building suggests that it is all from one construction phase. The house holds potential to learn more about its history if/when the paneling and drop ceilings are removed, and this would help to confirm the period of construction.

The house has several unusual elements. One is the basement supports for the fireplaces. Rather than building large stone piers from the ground up to support them, the mason corbelled out stones, then topped them with several courses of corbelled brick. This required much less masonry, though it is not as structurally sound. The other feature is the purlins in the roof to support the rafters, with struts beneath the purlins. This is not a common roofing technique in central Maryland, the use of collar beams being preferred. However, in a smaller house such as this, the collar beams, in order to work effectively, would have to be set low, which would not provide head room. The use of these purlins opens up the center of the attic for better use, and may have been the reason for employing them. There is no evidence that this was ever intended for living space, but it would have provided for that option, and the attic could have merely been planned as storage space that would have functioned better without collar beams overhead.

After the death of Ephraim Collins in 1885, and a court case amongst his heirs to settle his estate, the farm was offered at public sale in 1890. It was described simply: "The improvements are a fine brick dwelling, a large barn and the usual necessary outbuildings for a well-improved farm." The *Baltimore*

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-507

Name Collins-Earp Farm
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

Sun reported that it was purchased by Harry Lee Collins for \$6,850. Henry Lee Collins was the plaintiff in the equity case, but the eventual purchaser was A. Howard Earp, husband of Ephraim Collins' daughter, Susie. Earp paid \$5,445.12 for the 171 ½-acre farm. He added three more parcels over the next 23 years, and it was still in his family's possession when it was condemned and taken by the Federal Communications Commission in 1941. Part of the FCC's mission was to monitor communications to ensure that public airwaves were being used appropriately, and in the lead-up to World War II this mission increasingly included intercepting foreign communications that were then provided to the FBI, Army, Navy and Coast Guard. In 1940 FCC supervisor George Sterling created the National Defense Organization, later renamed the Radio Intelligence Division, to use the existing FCC network "to detect possible Axis spies, saboteurs, and infiltrators." The RID added new monitoring sites as part of its mission, and it is likely that the FCC's acquisition of the Collins-Earp Farm was part of this program. This work was apparently transferred to the nascent intelligence community after the war, and the FCC returned to monitoring communications for compliance at the Collins-Earp Farm, using the house for offices. It continues to function that way today. The history of this intelligence operation is imperfectly known and deserves greater investigation, but it is nonetheless significant to the later history of the Collins-Earp Farm.³

³ *Baltimore Sun*, 1 April 1890, Supplement p. 1, col. 1. See plat BMJ 170-199, Howard County Land Records. Robert Louis Benson, *A History of U. S. Communications Intelligence during World War II: Policy and Administration*. United States Cryptologic History, series IV, World War II, vol. 8 (National Security Agency, Center for Cryptologic History, 1997), pp. 9-10, 123-25.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-507

● See footnotes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 5 A
Acreage of historical setting 171 1/2 A
Quadrangle name Savage

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the inventoried area consist of the fence lines enclosing the historic house and associated buildings, and the outer boundaries of the asphalt drive and parking lots that generally encircle the western group of non-historic structures.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	25 April 2011
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.

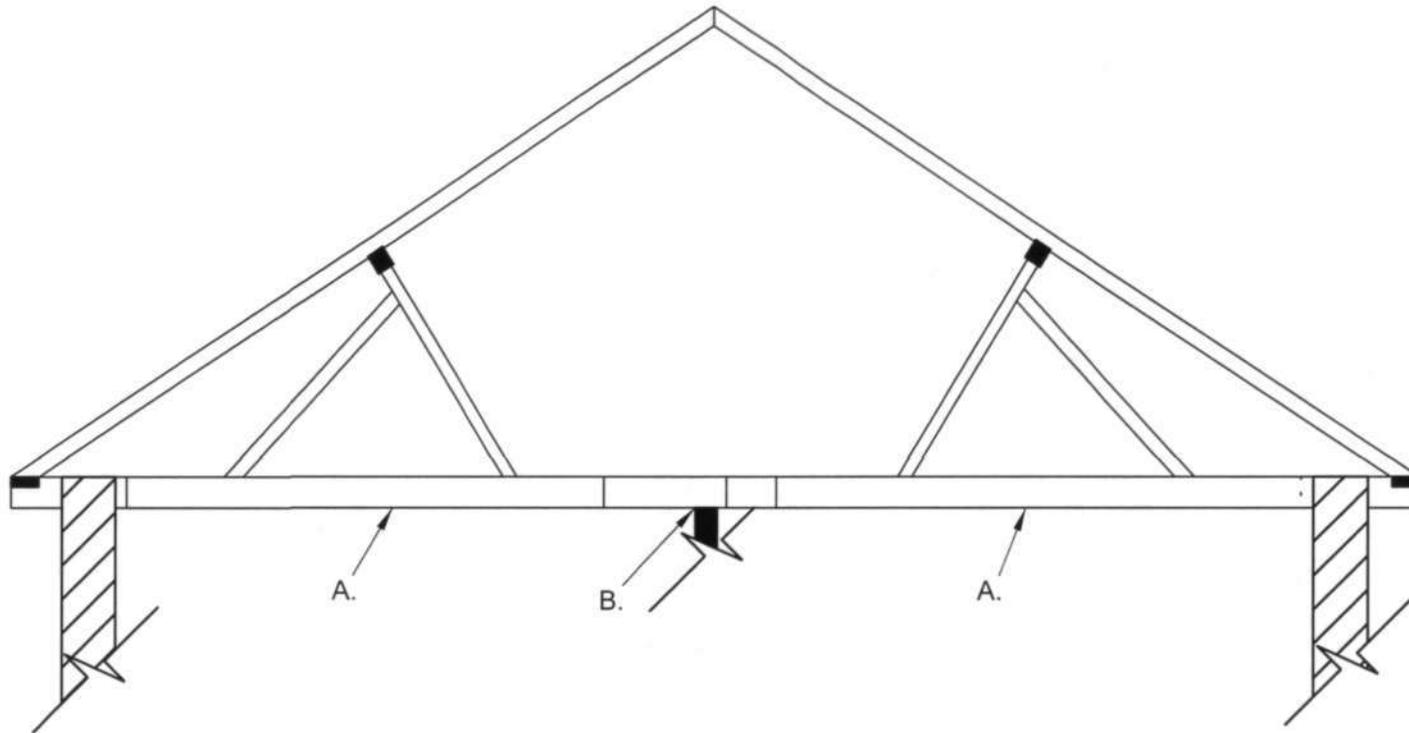
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

COLLINS-EARP FARM (HO-507)
9200 FARM HOUSE ROAD

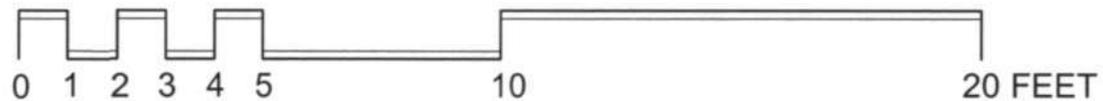
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER -ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
United States of America, petitioner, v.	Certain lands in the County of Howard, State of MD, John F. O'Malley, et al, defendants	29 Apr. 1941	BM, Jr. 170-198	Amended Declaration of Taking	\$12,000	236.06 A.	Dist. Ct. of USA for MD Civil #1019 Declaration of taking by FCC 22 Jan. 1941 A. Howard Earp Farm
John G. Rogers, trustee / Howard	A. Howard Earp / ?	25 Oct. 1890	JHO 56-452	Deed - ?	\$5,445.12	171 ½ A.	Equity 7 Mar. 1890 Henry Lee Collins v. Sallie H. Collins #1007 Docket 2-71 On public rd. from Elkridge Church to Savage Factory [no previous reference - see mortgage] (1)
Return J. & Elizabeth S. J. Meigs	A. Howard Earp	1 Feb. 1902	JHO 74-659				(2)
Savage Manuf. Co. of Howard Co.	A. Howard Earp	6 Nov. 1907	WWLC 90-356				(3)
Thomas J. & Nina B. O'Neill (H/W)	A. Howard Earp	26 Mar. 1913	WWLC 94-557				(4)
Hammond & Lucretia Dorsey (H/W) / Howard	Ephraim Collins / Howard	28 May 1852	WHW 12-292	Deed - Indenture	\$2,572	171 ½ A.	p/o Warfields Contrivance, The Garden, Halls Lott, & Henry or Harrys Lot "the graveyard & the right of way to the same is reserved." [no previous reference] (1)



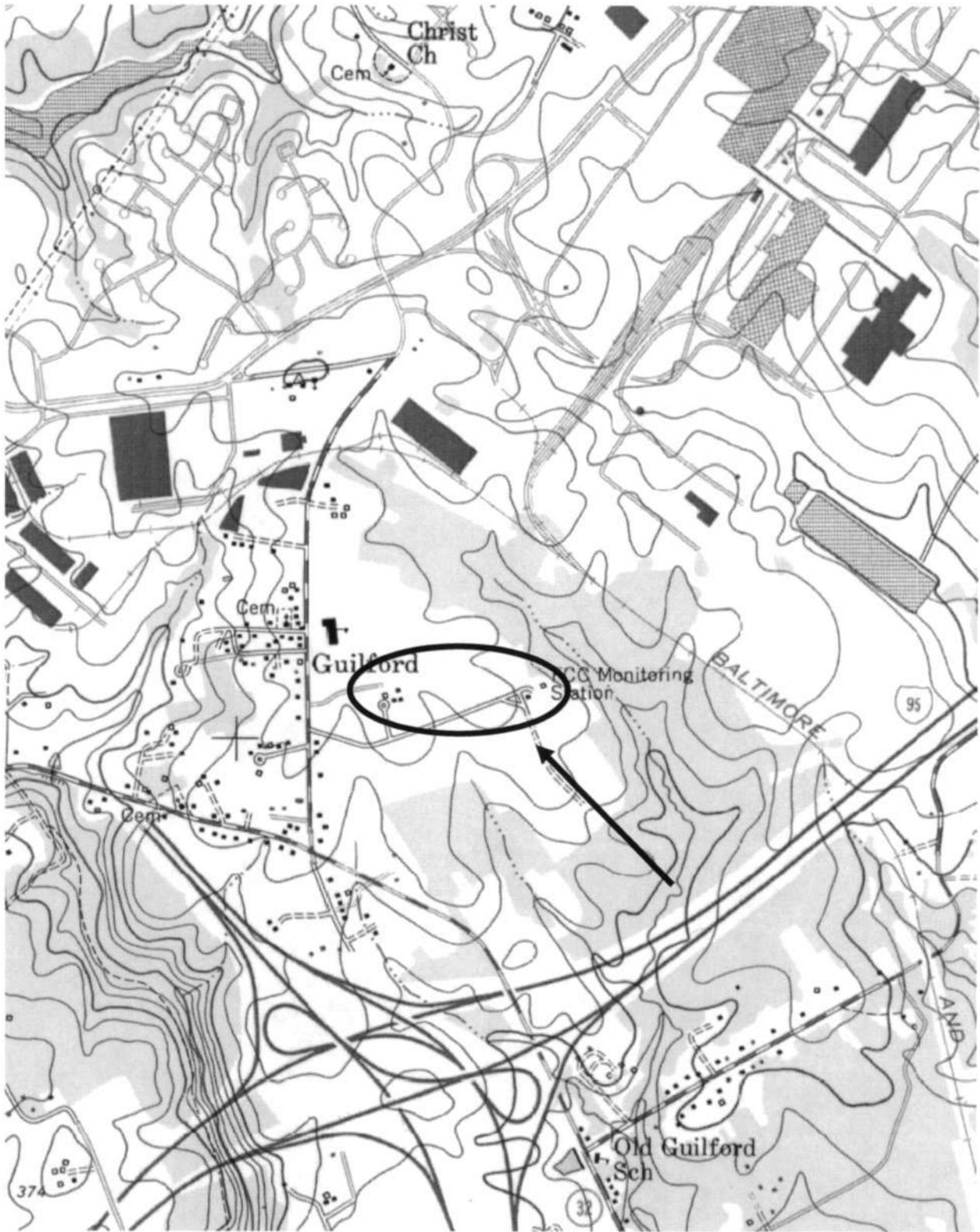
NOTES:

- A. STUD PARTITION WALL SUPPORTS BOTTOM MEMBER. WALL FRAMING NOT ACCESSIBLE.
- B. FLOOR JOISTS LAPPED IN CENTER AND SUPPORTED BY STUD PARTITION WALL. WALL FRAMING NOT ACCESSIBLE.



HO-507 COLLINS-EARP FARM 9200 FARM HOUSE ROAD

HOUSE -- ATTIC FRAMING SECTION -- MEASURED AND DRAWN BY KEN SHORT -- APRIL 2010



HO-507
Collins-Earp Farm
9200 Farmhouse Road (formerly 7435 Oakland Mills Road)
Savage quad

HO-507
Collins-Earp Farm
9200 Farmhouse Road (formerly 7435 Oakland Mills Road)
Howard County, Maryland
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

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

HO-0507_2010-04-19_01
House, north & west elevations

HO-0507_2010-04-19_02
House, west elevation, cornice brackets

HO-0507_2010-04-19_03
House, west & south elevations

HO-0507_2010-04-19_04
House, south & east elevations

HO-0507_2010-04-19_05
House, fireplace support in basement

HO-0507_2010-04-19_06
House, roof framing



HO-507

Collins-Earp Farm

9200 Farmhouse Road (formerly
7435 Oakland Mills Road)

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short, photographer

2010-04-19

MD SHPO

House, north + west elevations

1 of 6



HO-507

Collins-Earp Farm

9200 Farmhouse Road (formerly
7435 Oakland Mills Road)

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short, photographer

2010-04-19

MD SHPO

House, west elevation, cornice brackets

2 of 6





HO-507

Collins-Earp Farm

9200 Farmhouse Road (formerly

7435 Oakland Mills Road)

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short, photographer

2010-04-19

MD SHPO

House, west + south elevations

3 of 6





HO-507

Collins-Earp Farm

9200 Farmhouse Road (formerly
7435 Oakland Mills Road)

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short, photographer

2010-04-19

MD SHPO

House, south + east elevations

4 of 6



HO-507

Collins-Earp Farm

9200 Farmhouse Road (formerly
7435 Oakland Mills Road)

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short, photographer

2010-04-19

MD SHPO

House, fireplace support in basement

5 of 6



HO-507
Collins-Earp Farm
9200 Farmhouse Road (formerly
7435 Oakland Mills Road)
Howard County, Maryland
Ken Short, Photographer
2010-04-19
MD SHPO
House, roof framing
6 of 6

HO-507
The Brown-Collins-Earp House
Guilford
Public

circa 1813

The Brown-Collins-Earp House faces west on the east side of Oakland Mills Road, just north of its intersection with Route 32 and is set back from the road some two hundred feet.

It is a five bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) brick (laid in English Garden wall brick bond) building, resting on a stone foundation, with wide brick chimneys inset into its north and south walls and an early nineteenth century kitchen wing along its north wall. The latter is a two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) brick (laid in English Garden wall brick bond) kitchen wing, resting on a stone foundation, with wide brick chimney inset into its north wall and a two story high, shed roofed, brick and frame addition along its east wall whose east wall is constructed of frame and north wall is a continuation of the kitchen's north wall.

Fenestration for the entire house is vertically aligned, proportionally scaled, rectangular, and double-hung holding six-over-six lights, surmounted by stretcher brick, flat arched lintels, underlined by flat, wooden sills and decorated with black shutters. Two square attic windows, surmounted by stretcher brick, flat lintels, rest in the south wall. Three three-light basement windows are evenly inset into the stone foundation on the east and west elevations. This foundation projects slightly, creating a water table on the east, west and south elevations.

The land was owned in 1813 by Samuel Brown, who, at that time, conveyed the farm to Elisha Brown. By 1852, Lucretia and Hammond Dorsey acquired the property and sold it to Ephraim Collins, a Howard County Commissioner, who is noted as owner on both the Hopkin's Atlas of 1878 and the Martennet Map of 1860. The property was later known as the Howard Earp Farm.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-507
Dist. 6

MAGI # 1405073301

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Brown-Collins-Earp House

AND/OR COMMON
The F.C.C. Monitoring Station

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
E.S. Oakland Mills Road

CITY, TOWN
Guilford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
6th

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Howard

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Federal Communications Commission

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
301 W. Preston Street

CITY, TOWN
Baltimore

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21201

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Hall of Records

Tax Map 42, p. 230

Liber #: 170

Folio #: 198

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

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 Brown-Collins-Earp House faces west on the east side of Oakland Mills Road, just north of its intersection with Route 32 and is set back from the road some two hundred feet. It is a five bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) brick (laid in English Garden Wall Brick bond) building, resting on a stone foundation, with wide brick chimneys inset into its north and south walls and an early nineteenth century kitchen wing along its north wall. The latter is a two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) brick (laid in English Garden Wall brick bond) kitchen wing, resting on a stone foundation, with wide brick chimney inset into its north wall and a two story high, shed roofed, brick and frame addition along its east wall, whose east wall is constructed of frame and north wall a continuation of the kitchen's north wall.

Fenestration for the house is vertically aligned, proportionally scaled, rectangular, and double-hung, holding six-over-six lights, surmounted by stretcher brick, flat arched lintels, underlined by flat, wooden sills and decorated by black shutters.

Two square attic windows, surmounted by stretcher brick, flat lintels, rest in the south wall.

Three three-light basement windows are evenly inset into the stone foundation, on the east and west elevations. This foundation projects slightly, creating a water table on the east, west and south elevations.

The east elevation features five second floor, vertically aligned, rectangular windows and an off center rectangular, first floor entrance, surmounted by a flat arched, stretcher brick lintel, which has been blocked in. What was once a window in the second north bay of this main section of the house is now a rectangular entrance. Four poured-in-place concrete steps, faced with stretcher bricks and flanked by an iron railing lead to a cement landing for this entrance.

The east elevation of the kitchen wing, the original early nineteenth century dwelling house, features frame siding, covered with aluminum siding and a rectangular entrance. South of this entrance is a double casement, rectangular window, holding ten-ten lights, and another north of the door. On the second floor rests a quatrepartite, rectangular window, each of the four sections, holding nine lights and separated by one another by flat pilasters.

Five poured-in-place cement steps, lead to the kitchen entrance, which leads into a vestibule and the original rectangular entrance to this early section of the house, located in the north bay.

THE NORTH AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS

The north elevation of the kitchen wing features a batten wood, rectangular cellar door with cross beam, surmounted by a flat wooden lintel, while the south

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

elevation of the later nineteenth century brick house features the two square attic windows previously mentioned under fenestration.

THE WEST ELEVATION

The west elevation of the later section of the house features a central, gabled roof portico, supported by two square posts and two pilasters. Two wide, poured-in-place cement steps lead to its cement landing, supported by a brick foundation and flanked by an iron railing as are the steps.

A central, rectangular, double entrance door is flanked by three vertical side lights and surmounted by a five light transom. The entrance is decorated by shutters.

Above rests a central, second floor, tall, rectangular, double-hung window, holding six-over-six lights, flanked by four vertical side lights, all of which are surmounted by a stretcher brick flat arched lintel.

The west elevation of this section features a simple wooden cornice, decorated with twenty-five scrolled brackets.

The west elevation of the kitchen wing, the early nineteenth century dwelling unit, features two first and second floor vertically aligned windows.

THE INTERIOR

The cellar of the house reveals a massive foundation for the large cooking fireplace on the kitchen's north wall, as well as hand hewn log joists supporting this section of the house.

The larger, later, addition features hand hewn supporting beams which are not log, but are nailed with horseshoe nails.

The random width first floor of the later section is revealed in the basement, though now covered by tile flooring.

In the northeast corner of the later section five wide granite steps are found, which originally led to the kitchen's entrance way. These, along with the log joists reveal an earlier date for the kitchen wing of at least 1813, the year Elisha Brown acquired the farm. (Equity Record Liber 20, folio 81).

Northeast of the house is an old frame barn, resting on a stone foundation. It features original nine to ten inch floor boards, wide, double, interior, random width, batten wood, barn door, eight by six inch, hand hewn cross and supporting beams and a ten inch center beam.

West of the house lies a small cemetery with the following markings:

SAMUEL BROWN
DIED
Sept. 23, 1826 in his ? 0 th year

ELISHA BROWN
DIED
Jan. 19, 1832 in his 58 year

ANN BROWN
DIED
June 19, 1886 in her 58 year

8 SIGNIFICANCE

HO-507
Dist. 6

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

Circa 1813

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brown-Collins-Earp House is significant to Howard County and the State of Maryland architecturally and historically.

Architecturally it is a fine example of brick architecture, constructed in two sections. The kitchen wing dates to at least 1813, when Samuel Brown conveyed the farm to Elisha Brown on the 9th of April. (Equity Record Liber 170 Folio 81). The main body of the house probably was constructed later by either Hammond and Lucretia Dorsey prior to 1852 or by Ephraim Collins, who acquired the farm on May 28, 1852 from the Dorseys for \$2,572. (Equity Record, Liber 70, Folio 78).

The brick bond matches in the two sections of the house and is of a common variety of English garden wall.

The fenestration for the house is particularly noteworthy, as exemplified in the fine second floor, central bay west window, described in section 7 and in its proportionally scaled and vertically aligned character found on both the east and west elevations of the house. In addition, the building features a water table, not often found in Howard County's vernacular architecture. A notable exception is HO-13, Howard Lodge near Sykesville.

Historically the building is noteworthy for its association with the leading families of Howard County.

The Brown family is notable for the Patuxent Ranger Brown who settled the Marriotsville area. A branch of this family evidently settled near the Elkridge or Christ Episcopal Church. A graveyard west of the house holds several Browns, two of whom, Samuel (died 1826) and Elisha (died 1832) are mentioned in the Case of Equity #1007 of March 7, 1890 between members of the Collins family.

A deed is mentioned from Samuel Brown to Elisha Brown, 9 April 1813 and a reference is made to the "boundary of said deed in a division between Samuel Brown and Archibald Ridgely's heirs". Samuel Brown lived and died here in 1826.

The kitchen wing is sure to have existed by 1813, when he conveyed the deed to the property to Elisha.

Historically, by 1852, when Lucretia and Hammond Dorsey owned the land and conveyed it to Ephraim Collins for \$2,572, the farm comprised a tract of land, called "Warfield's Contrivance", the "Garden Part of "Halls Loft" and part of Henry

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

or Harry's Lot. Mention is made of a "public road leading from Elkridge Church toward the Savage Factory".

Sometime in the year 1885 Ephraim Collins died a widower, leaving his children, Henry Lee (m. Ida Dixon), Sallie H. Jennie, Mary Collins and Susie Collins, who married Howard Earp. In 1889, at the time of Case #1007 in Equity between these children, all were over 21. A part of the farm was acquired by Harry Lee Collins in 1890, who built the Collins House, north of this one, while Susie and her husband Howard Earp acquired the old house and surrounding farm, now owned by the Federal Communications Commission, and used as an office for their Monitoring Facility.

Through its associations with the prestigious Brown, Collins and Dorsey families of Howard County and for its architectural integrity and noteworthy vernacular style, the Brown-Collins-Earp House, should its owners so desire, is recommended to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the State Critical Areas Program and any future local landmark ordinance initiated by the citizens of Howard County.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Howard County
Equity Records of Howard County
Interviews with Hammond Dorsey, Mr. Milton Mobley and Mr. Joseph A. Pedone of
the F.C.C. Monitoring Facility.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 259.9049 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 42

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 170 Folio 198

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

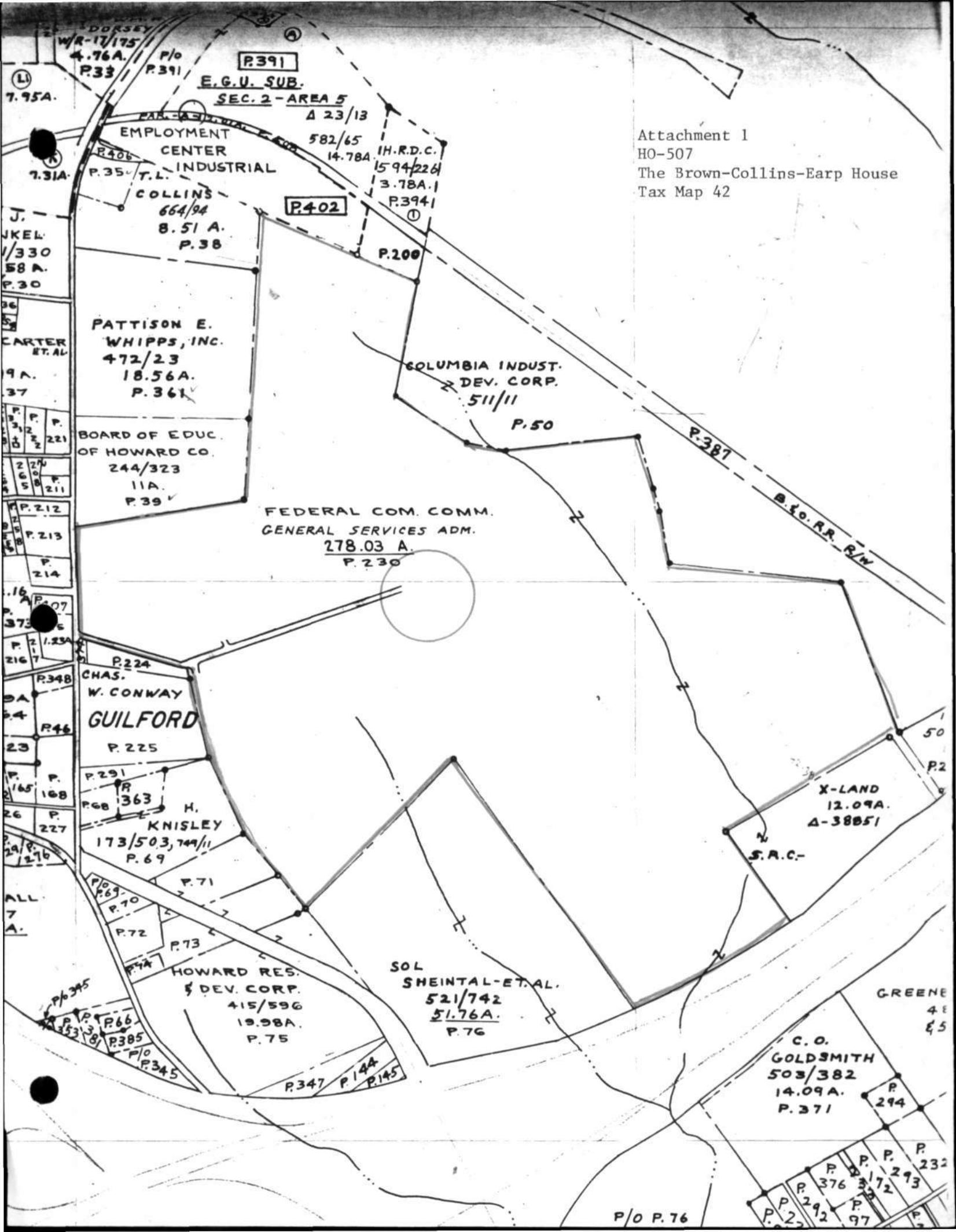
Maryland

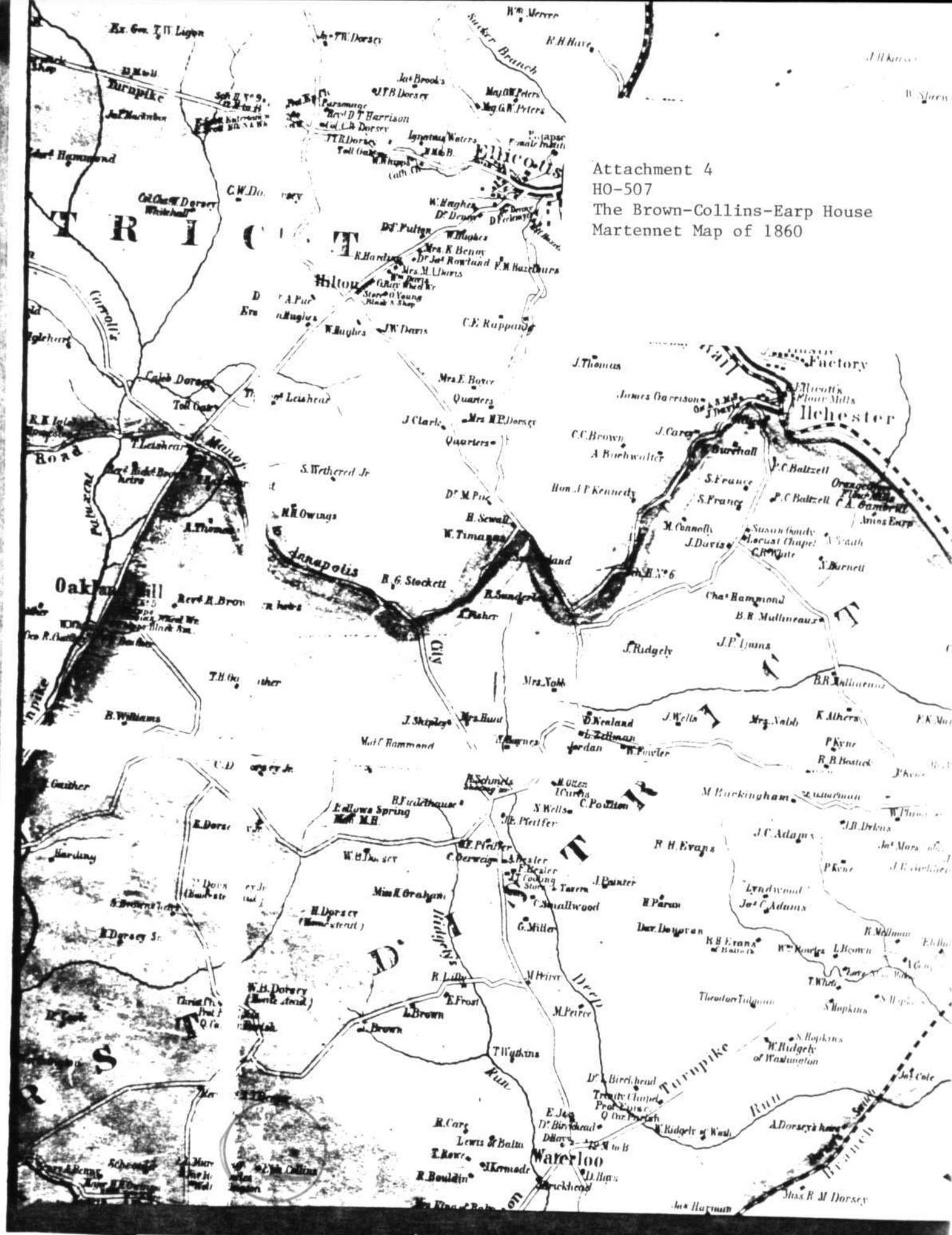
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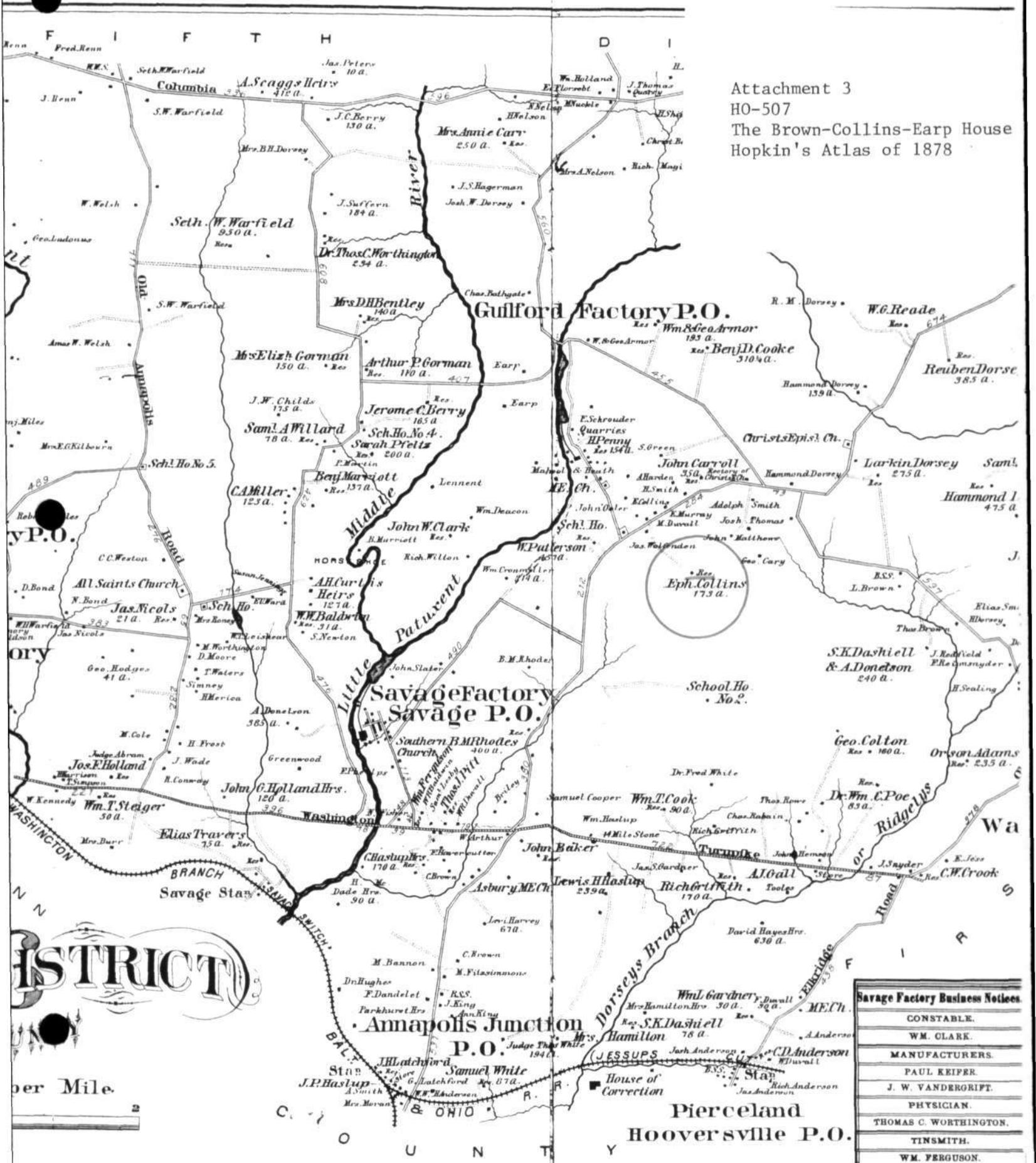
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Attachment 1
HO-507
The Brown-Collins-Earp House
Tax Map 42





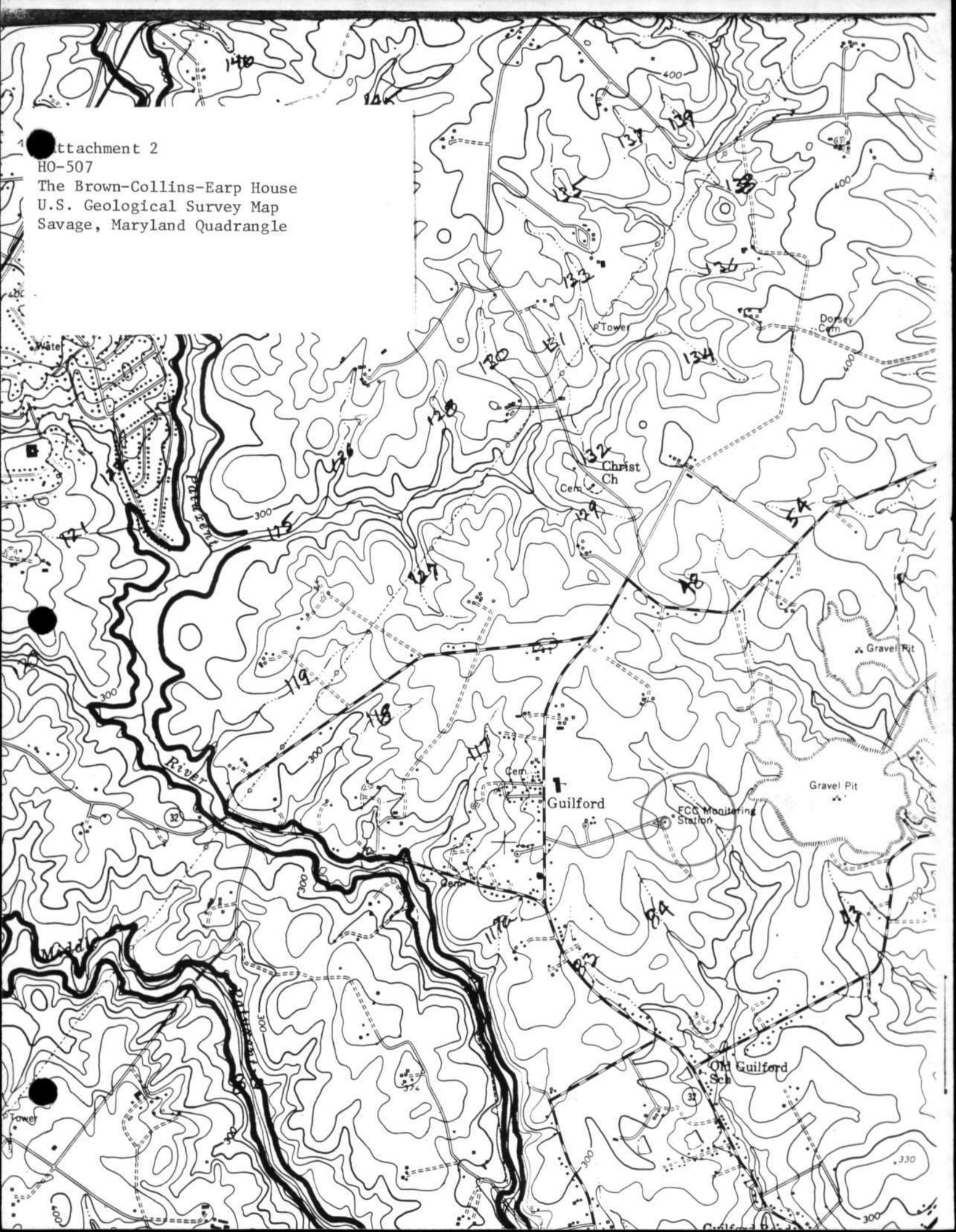
Attachment 4
 HO-507
 The Brown-Collins-Earp House
 Martenmet Map of 1860



Attachment 3
 HO-507
 The Brown-Collins-Earp House
 Hopkin's Atlas of 1878

Savage Factory Business Notices	
CONSTABLE.	WM. CLARK.
MANUFACTURERS.	PAUL KEIFER.
	J. W. VANDERGRIFT.
PHYSICIAN.	THOMAS C. WORTHINGTON.
	TINSMITH.
	WM. FERGUSON.

Attachment 2
HO-507
The Brown-Collins-Earp House
U.S. Geological Survey Map
Savage, Maryland Quadrangle





H0-507
THE BROWN-COLLINS-EARP HOUSE
WEST
CB THOMPSON, AICP
APRIL - 1979