

HO-510

circa 1878

The B & O Railroad Company House  
Elkridge  
Private

The B & O Railroad Company House faces east on the west side of Railroad Avenue, just north of HO-509, The Mrs. Mills Double House. It is a two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame house, resting on a stone foundation, with square brick chimney inset into its south wall and a two story high, intersecting gabled roof (running east-west) frame dining room addition off its west wall, with a further one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame kitchen addition, extending from the dining room's west wall.

A one story high, hipped roof, open porch, supported by three wooden posts, runs along its entire east elevation, which features a cross paneled door and three light transom.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-510

Dist. 1

MAEI # 1405105604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The B & O Railroad Company House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER W.S. Railroad Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Elkridge

\_\_\_ 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"/> BUILDING(S)         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                   | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE           | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS             | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                       |
|  |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                         |
|  |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                    |
|  |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC                   |
|  |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION               |
|  |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER                        |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME B & O Railroad

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

2 North Charles Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

21201

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Tax Map 38  
Hall of Records

Liber #: WWL 92

Folio #: 632

STREET & NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1978-1979

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION**HO-510  
Dist. 1

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

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

The B & O Railroad Company House faces east on the west side of Railroad Avenue, just north of HO-509, The Mrs. Mills Double House. It is a two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame house, resting on a stone foundation with square brick chimney inset into its south wall and a two story high, intersecting gabled roof (running east-west) frame addition off its west wall with a further one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame addition extending from its west wall. A one story high, hipped roof, open porch, supported by three wooden posts, runs along its entire east elevation, which features a cross paneled door and three light transom.

Only a six-over-six light, rectangular attic window occurs on the south elevation of the building's main section, a similar vertically aligned first and second floor and attic window are placed on its north elevation.

Two first floor, rectangular, six-over-six light windows occur on the south wall of the building's two story high addition, with a single similar second floor window. Its north wall holds a rectangular, cross paneled entrance door, in the east bay, and a six-over-six window in its west bay with two similar, vertically aligned second floor windows above. Its west wall holds a central, square brick chimney and an interior door leading into the one story high kitchen, off whose west wall has been constructed a one story high, shed roofed appendage, holding on its north side, a bath, and on its south side, an enclosed porch for the kitchen entrance. The interior features a fine wooden mantle piece and shelf, flanked by flat pilasters on the south wall of the living room, and a one way staircase in the northeast corner of the dining room. A still narrower staircase leads from the southwest corner of the master bedroom, above the living room, to the attic above.

The building is charming and quaint in the interior, and in excellent condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>PERIOD</b>                                 | <b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</b> |   |   |   |
| <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) |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION                      |   |   | Local history                                       |

**SPECIFIC DATES**      circa 1873

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The B & O Railroad Company House is significant to the State of Maryland and Howard County architecturally as an example of modest domestic frame architecture of the mid to late nineteenth century and historically as a building belonging to Joseph D. Pettit in 1873 and from 1912 to the present to the B & O Railroad.

Architecturally, its scale and proportion, as well as its interior arrangement, give significance to the structure. It is basically a three room house, one room above the other, to which a two story high, intersecting gable roof (running east-west) frame kitchen wing was constructed. Later, a new one story high, kitchen wing was added, creating a dining room, and, later still, under the tenure of Mr. and Mrs. O'Bryan, a bath and vestibule on the new kitchen's west wall was constructed. The mantelpieces in the downstairs living & dining rooms are simple in design and could denote by their simplicity, early construction. In addition, an enclosed staircase in the northeast corner of the dining room is reminiscent of that found in the kitchen of the Stumpner Shingled House, HO-513, probably constructed about the same time.

Historically, the building belonged to Joseph D. Pettit in 1873, who died and left his estate to his wife, Annie, son, Thomas and daughter, Annie Milling. This estate was considerable and included a number of property holdings along the north side of Main Street, Elkridge, as well as along the west side of Railroad Avenue.

In 1877 and in 1889, proceedings in Equity were initiated in the Circuit Court of Howard County (see Significant Statement for HO-509). The buildings along Railroad Avenue were described as "old" in these proceedings. (See Attachment 5)

On May 6, 1889, at a public auction, Mary C. Thompson acquired the house and lot for \$575. On June 24, 1897, Mary Thompson of Baltimore City sold the house and lot for \$560 to Otto Guerdnan, also of Baltimore City, (67-332), who later moved to Havana, Cuba and sold the house and lot to Annie O. Earp and her husband Charles on September 29, 1904. (79-262) for \$395.

In old deeds, the property is referred to as comprising a small portion of the old Lycium lot and a part of that lot which was surveyed September 14, 1841 for Joshua Trimble. In any event, it is certain to have been one of the "old" houses described in the proceedings in Equity and noted on the 1878 Hopkin's Atlas, constructed circa 1873.

On April 6, 1912, the B & O Railroad, through the Real Estate and Improvement Company of Baltimore acquired the lot and house from Annie O. and Samuel Earp, utilizing it as a Railroad Company House for its employers, initially a Mr. Pierce, a signal man and later occupied by Mr. and Mrs. O'Bryan, occupants of the house for over forty years and Sexton to Grace Episcopal Church, Elkridge for approximately the same time.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The building is located just south of property owned by the B & O Railroad and under consideration as a parking facility for commuters within the general area.

Though in earlier days Main Street, Elkridge was commercial, as well as residential in character, and small industries occurred on the west, as well as the east side of Railroad Avenue, today it is entirely residential in character. The small factory located south of HO-509, the Mrs. Mills Double House has been demolished and the Brown Shingled House, one house north of the northeast corner of the intersection of Paradise and Railroad Avenues, which incorporated a basket factory in the early twentieth century, is now residential. Earp's Store as well as the Joseph Tilghman Grocery Store are now used as apartments. Only two or three commercial enterprises remain along Main Street, Elkridge. Due to the general change in character of Railroad Avenue and adjacent Main Street, Elkridge from a predominantly commercial to predominantly residential character, any plan for such a parking facility should have the approbation of the neighboring residents.

Historically, the house should not be confused with those houses constructed circa 1910 by the B & O Railroad to furnish housing for their employers. This is of earlier vintage, but by its present use is so named.

In conclusion, the B & O Railroad Company House is significant architecturally and historically, and as such, in conjunction with the Railroad Avenue Historic District should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the State Critical Areas Program and any local landmarks ordinance, which the residents within this area may wish to initiate.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hopkin's Atlas of 1878  
Interview with Mr. and Mrs. O'Bryan, occupants of  
the house for 47 years

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 38

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 92 Folio 632

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

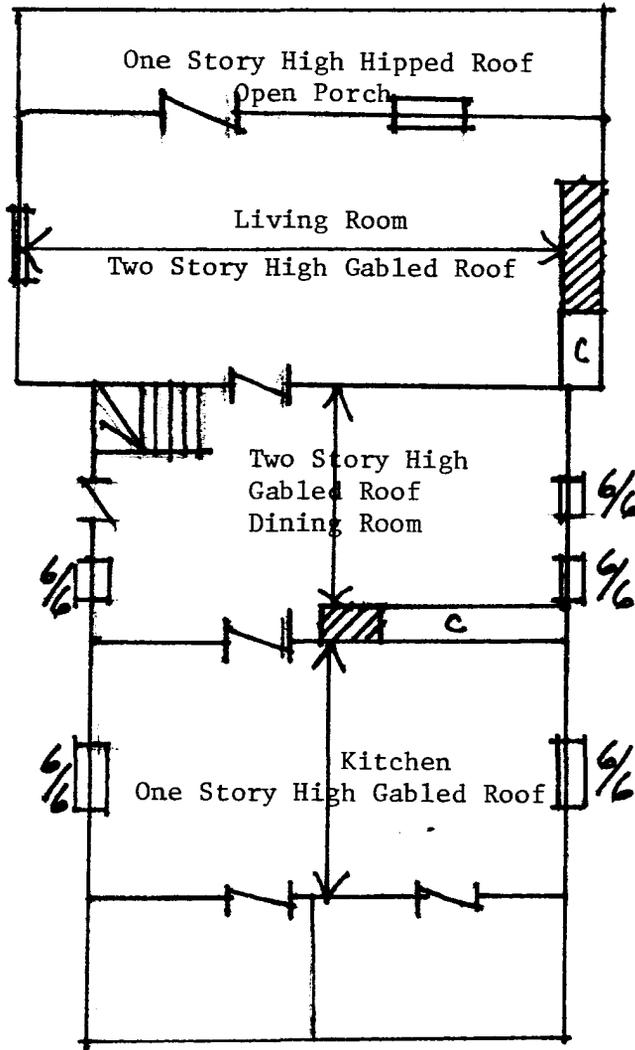
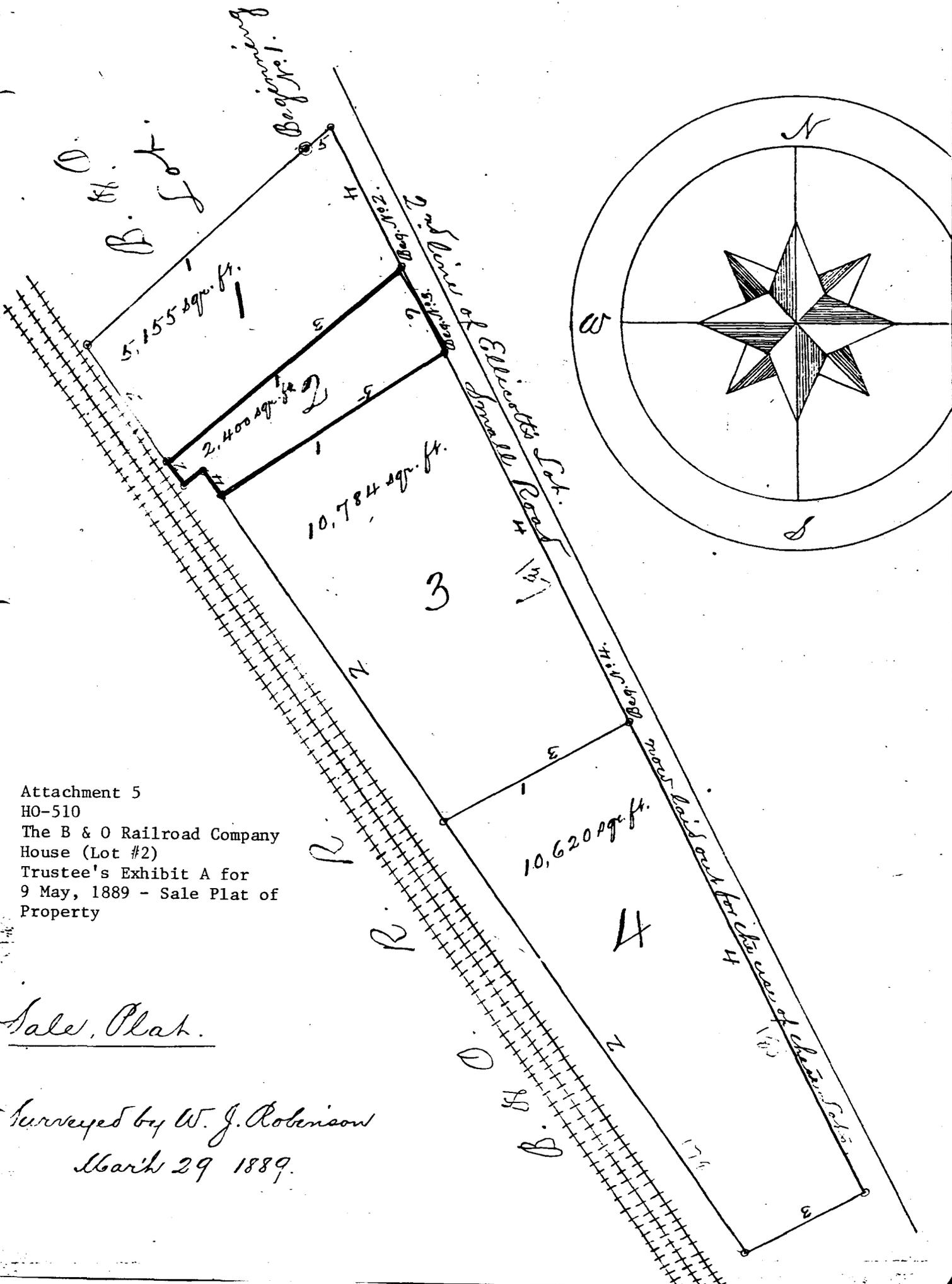


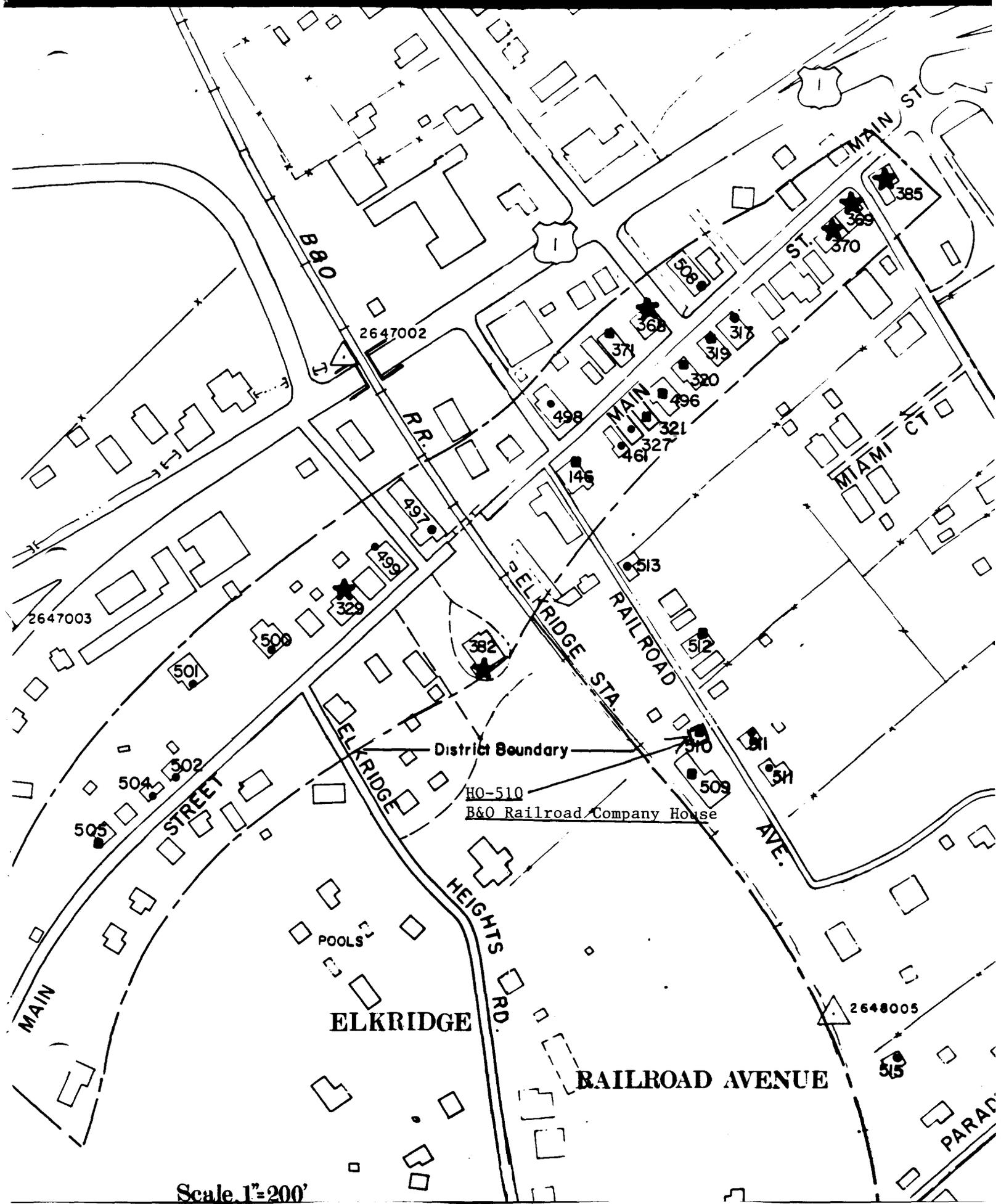
Figure 1  
HO-510  
The B & O Railroad Company House  
First Floor Plan



Attachment 5  
 HO-510  
 The B & O Railroad Company  
 House (Lot #2)  
 Trustee's Exhibit A for  
 9 May, 1889 - Sale Plat of  
 Property

Sale Plat.

Surveyed by W. J. Robinson  
 March 29 1889.



District Boundary

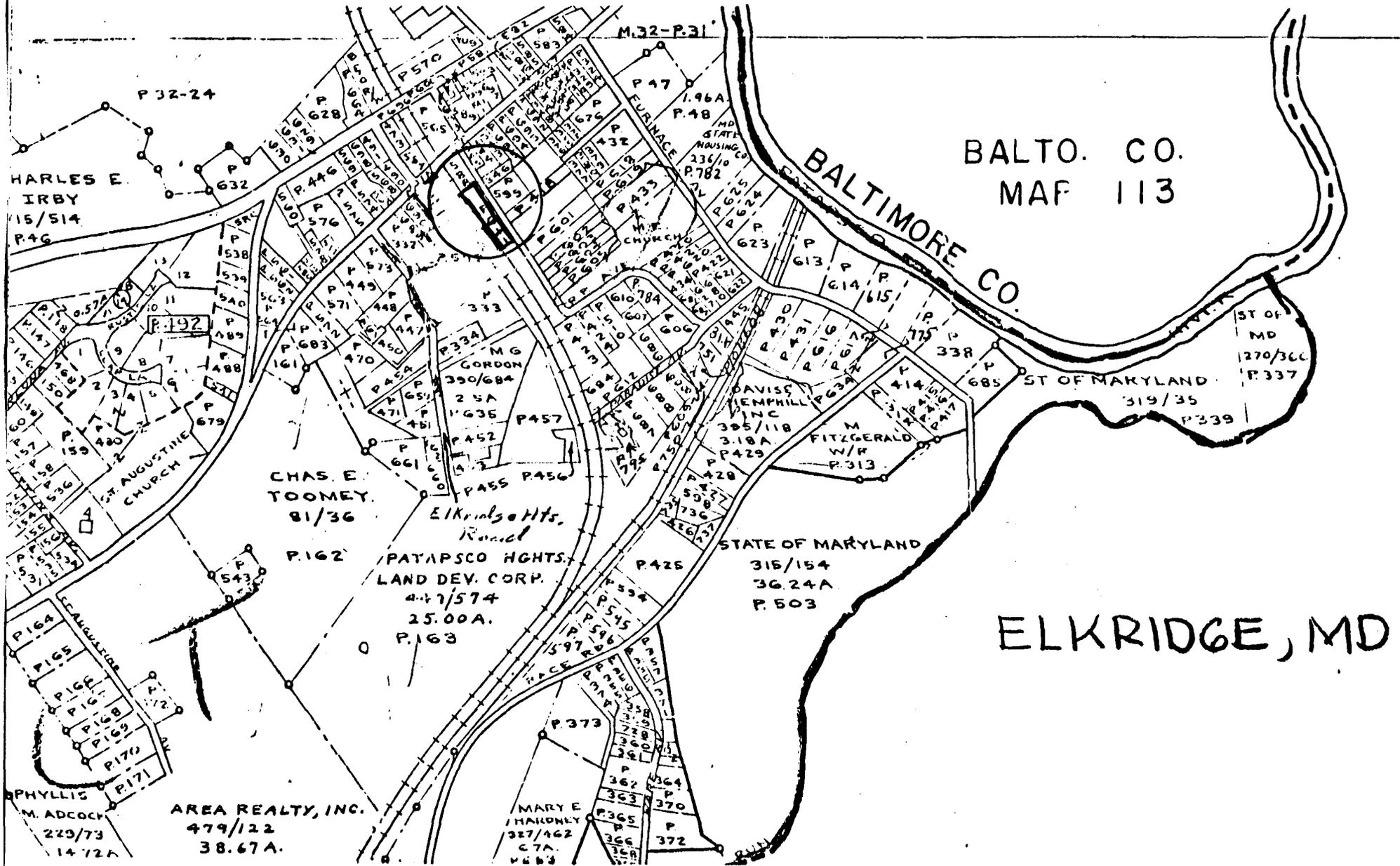
HO-510  
B&O Railroad Company House

ELKRIDGE

RAILROAD AVENUE

Scale 1"=200'

Attachment I  
HO-510  
The B & O Railroad Company House  
Tax Map 38



BALTO. CO.  
MAF 113

BALTIMORE CO.

ELKRIDGE, MD

HARLES E.  
IRBY  
15/514  
P.46

ST. AUGUSTINE  
CHURCH

CHAS. E.  
TOOMEY  
81/36

PATAPSCO HGHTS.  
LAND DEV. CORP.  
4.47/574  
25.00A.  
P.163

STATE OF MARYLAND  
315/154  
36.24A  
P.503

PHYLLIS  
M. ADCOCK  
229/73  
14/125

AREA REALTY, INC.  
479/122  
38.67A.

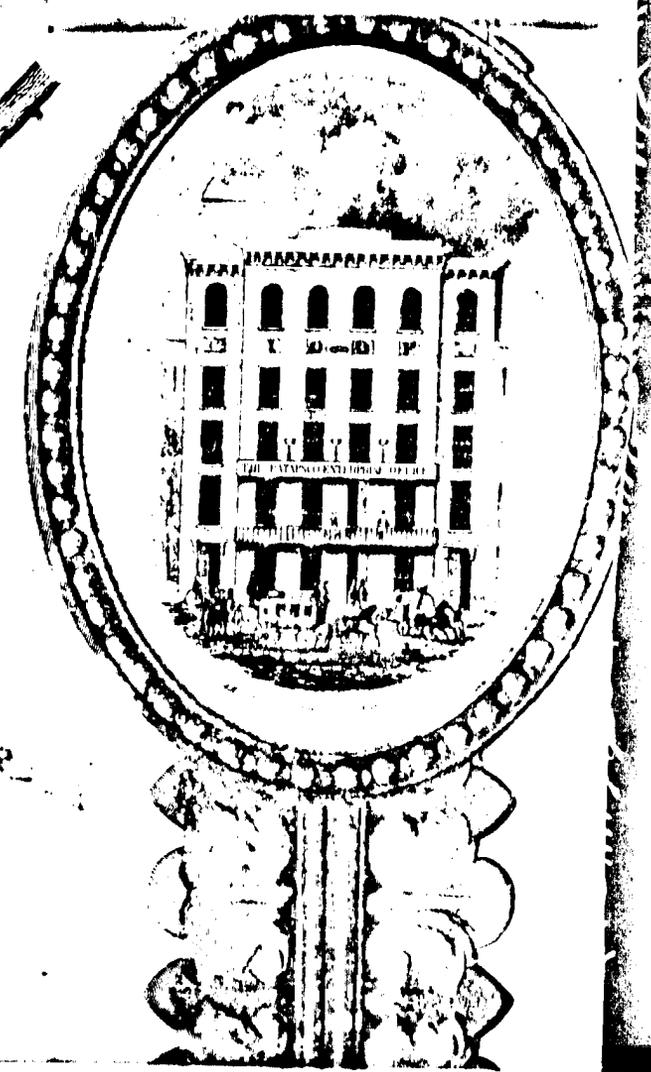
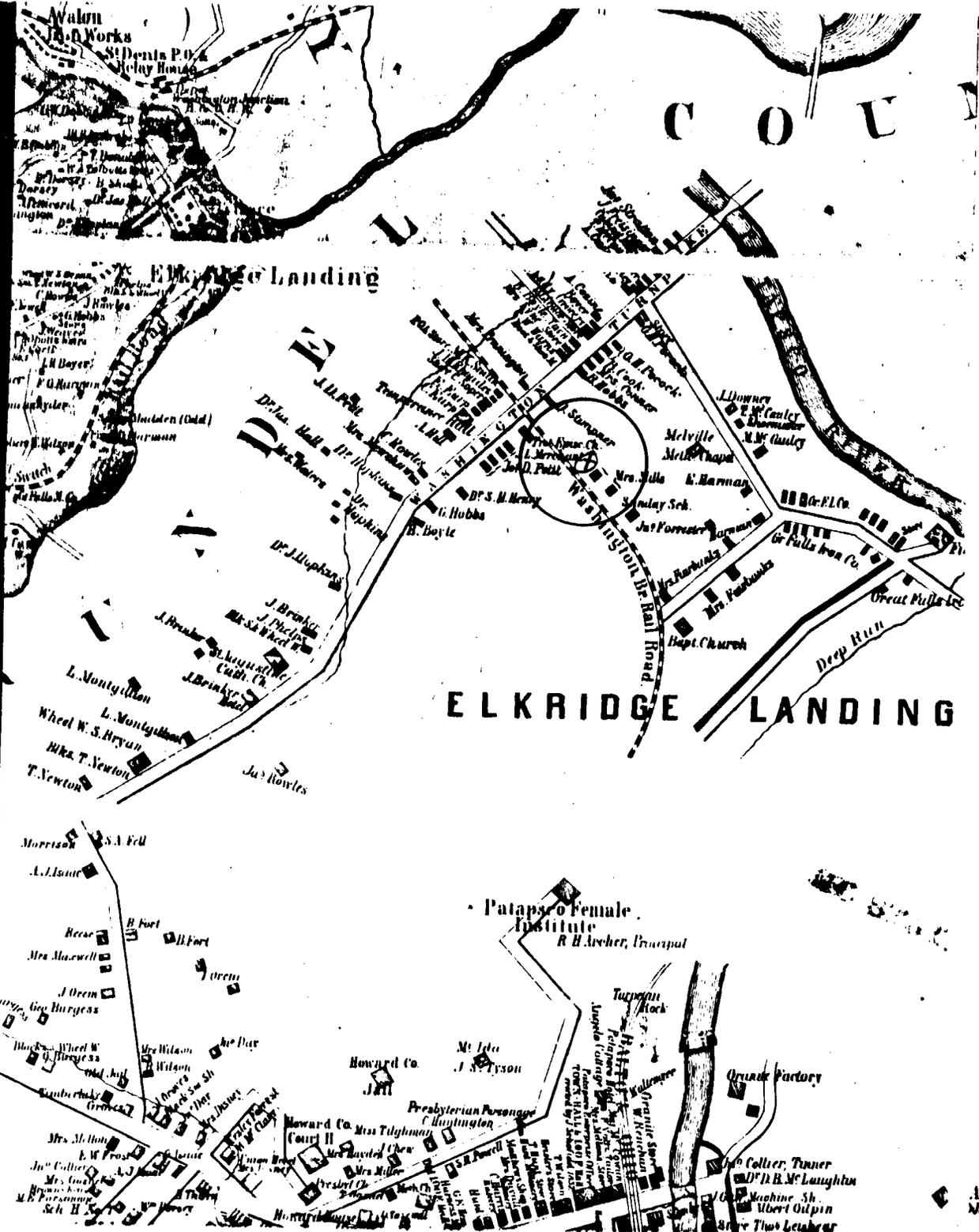
MARY E.  
HARDNEY  
327/462  
C7A.  
V683

ST OF  
MD  
1270/366  
P.337

ST OF MARYLAND  
319/35  
P.339

# C O U N T Y

Attachment 3  
HO-510  
The B & O Railroad Company House  
Martennet Map of 1860









Ho-516  
The B & O Railroad Co. Hoop  
SW

Cleora Thompson, AICP  
Feb-1979