

HO - 548  
The Humphrie Tenant House  
Elkridge  
Private

Circa 1840

The Humphrie Tenant House faces south on the north side of Rockburn Branch Road, just east of the Goldbeater's Cottage. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame house, resting on a stone foundation, with a central brick chimney. A shed-roofed portico, supported by two iron posts, covers the central rectangular south entrance door.

Single rectangular, double-hung, first floor windows, holding six-over-six lights are placed on each side of the south entrance. The windows are flanked by flat pilasters, surmounted by flat lintels and underlined by flat sills.

The interior features original open corner staircase, random width floors and living room mantle piece, decorated with elongated brackets beneath a flat architrave.

At one time this house featured a summer kitchen just north of the building. Today, this is used as a work room and storage shed. It is a one bay wide, one room deep, one story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame structure, with central batten wood south entrance, and 1893 date inscribed on its east wall. This building was owned by John Humphries in 1872, and later his son. The building may have early associations with Avalon.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

HO - 548  
Relay Quad.  
Dist. I

MAGI# 1405485404

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The Humphries Tenant House  
AND/OR COMMON The Ostola Residence

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 6155 Rockburn Hill Road  
CITY, TOWN Elkridge VICINITY OF 6th  
STATE Maryland 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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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. Henry Ostola Telephone #:  
STREET & NUMBER 6155 Rockburn Hill Road  
CITY, TOWN Eliridge, VICINITY OF Maryland STATE, zip code 21227

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Tax Map 32 p. 63 Liber #: 583  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records Folio #: 225  
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Humphrie Tenant House faces south on the north side of Rockburn Branch Road, just east of the Goldbeaters' Cottage. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame house, resting on a stone foundation, with central brick chimney. Ashed roofed portico, supported by two iron posts, covers the central rectangular south entrance door.

Single rectangular, double-hung, first floor windows, holding six-over-six lights are placed on each side of the south entrance. The windows are flanked by flat pilasters, surmounted by flat lintels and underlined by flat sills.

The west elevation holds a six light first floor window, originally a double-hung window, holding six-over-six lights.

A two light rectangular sliding window was installed in the loft above by the present owners.

The east elevation is similar, holding a central rectangular first floor, double-hung, six-over-six light window with a square loft window above holding an air conditioning unit.

The north elevation once held two batten wood doors, matching the original batten wood door on the south elevation. Now two rectangular, dutch doors, holding nine lights in their upper portion and St. Andrews' cross panels beneath are placed on each side of this north wall.

A one story high, shed roofed, open porch, supported by five iron posts runs along the entire north elevation. The boards are inscribed Davis and Hemphill.

The siding for the house is composed of 12 to 14 inch weathered chestnut boards, similar to those found on the Goldbeaters' Cottage.

The interior features a central mantle piece wall dividing the house in half for a kitchen and living room. A measurement of the downstairs and floor above reveals the general construction of the house. The kitchen is one inch wider than the floor above. In this way the house was braced by building inward.

A Ben Franklin stove is placed on the east wall of the kitchen, utilizing the brick chimney. Original beaded wainscotting with chair rail can be found in the livingroom with the original open staircase located in the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Description

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northeast corner, along with the original fireplace, decorated with elongated brackets beneath a flat architrave.

At one time this house featured a summer kitchen just north of the building. Today this is used as a work room and storage shed. It is a one bay wide, one room deep, one story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame structure, with central batten wood south entrance and 1893 date inscribed on the north side of its east wall. Two steps lead to the entrance. An east and west six light rectangular window are the only other apertures for this building.

The Brown Tenant House is constructed along the north side of the Rockburn Branch, and just west of the Patapsco River. It is also adjacent to Patapsco State Park, whose boundary line comes up to the line of the building's entrance portico.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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Relay 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 type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Circa 1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Humphrie Tenant House is significant to Howard County and the State of Maryland architecturally as an example of a modest mid nineteenth century single family dwelling unit and historically through its association with Belmont and Avalon.

Architecturally the building is significant for its basic integrity, remaining much as it was when originally constructed with some modernization to accommodate its present owners.

The building is very similar to its neighbor to the west, the Goldbeaters' Cottage in both interior plan and construction.

The plans of both houses feature two equal downstairs rooms with central dividing wall and loft above. Corner staircases are also featured, but placed, one in the dividing wall, the other in an outside corner. No evidence of a mantle piece exists in the Goldbeaters' Cottage, but the Humphries Tenant House features one. The general construction of both houses is similar. The Goldbeaters' Cottage features log joists and square cut nails. Both houses feature stone foundations, wide boards for siding, random width floors gabled roofs and similar scale and dimensions. Located on the north side of the Rockburn Branch, opposite what residents in the area claim to be the foundation walls for Avalon Iron Works, these cottages may once have been associated with this operation.

Historically, the building can be traced back to the premises or buildings mentioned in a deed dated 5 March, 1872 (32-126) from J. Smith Homans of Bergen County, New Jersey to John Humphries, then of the City of Richmond, Virginia. This deed also mentions the fact that the Avalon Company acquired property adjoining this tract of land on June 20, 1820 (11-384 Anne Arundel Land Records).

A summer kitchen just north of the Humphries Tenant House has a date 1893 scratched on the north side of its east wall with the initials WH.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## Significance

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Mr. John Humphries was from England, but after falling in love with an American woman, he decided to make his home here, buying property in this area in 1872 after the Civil War and building his own home on a high ridge of land on the north side of Rockburn Hill Road. Here he later constructed homes for both his son and daughter. His son, John Humphries, was a notable politician in Elkridge. Elizabeth, his daughter, still makes her home here with her family. The land on which the Humphries Tenant House sits once comprised two acres, which included this tenant house and a residence which was constructed circa 1901, when Jack Humphries acquired the property from his father (JHO 74-452).

Later it became the property of the McCauley family, passing to Dennis Edwin Seymour on March 20, 1970 (528-645) and later to the present owners, Henry K and Patricia A. Ostola (583-225).

This tract of land is zoned R-20 and is presently surrounded by undeveloped residential land. In addition it adjoins a State Park, which gives it an enviable location, forever protected by the conservation zone which surrounds it.

Of architectural and historical merit, this building should be considered for inclusion to any historic district or local landmarks legislation the citizens of Howard County might initiate in the Belmont-Lawyers Hill Area, as well as inclusion to the State Criticals Area Program, should its owners so desire.

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## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview on November 19 with Mr. Henry Ostola and Mrs. Cordelia Hansen at the Ostola Residence.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.99

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 32

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 583 Folio 225

### 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

# BALTIMORE COUNTY

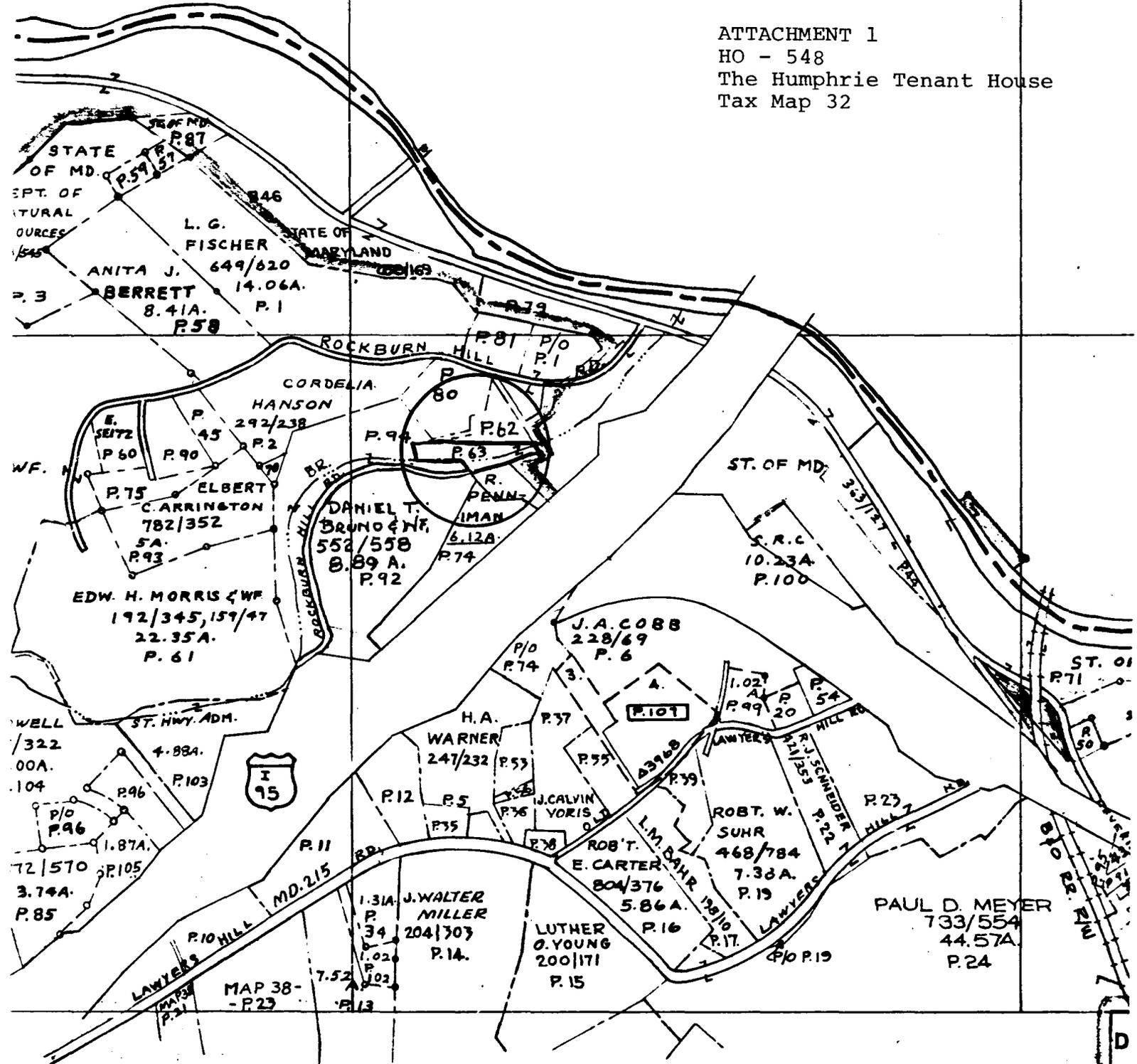
## MAP 108

ATTACHMENT 1

HO - 548

The Humphrie Tenant House

Tax Map 32



582 IV SE  
(ELLCOTT CITY)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Attachment 2  
HO-548  
The Humphrie Tenant House  
U.S. Geological Survey Map  
Relay, Maryland Quadrangle

