

HO-10  
Villa de Speranza  
Glenwood  
Private

18th & 19th Century

A log cabin on the property may date from 1730, while a one room stone house with a date of 1788 on the keystone of the fireplace is incorporated into the overall L shaped plan of the house which has been added to from time to time. A five bay wide, one room deep, two and a half story, gabled roof (running east-west) brick covered with stucco house faces north with brick chimneys inset into its east and west walls. A central hall is connected by north and south entrance doors, whose north entrance has a cross and open bible paneled door surmounted by a nine lite transom and flanked by three vertical side lites. The entire north facade is covered by a two story open porch supported by six square posts. This early nineteenth century house is connected to the old stone kitchen by a two and a half story connector. Recent two story additions lie west and south of the old stone house forming an interesting and intriguing building complex which manages to sustain a certain degree of integrity and presents a charming architectural composite. Flag stone walks, fine stone retaining walls and lovely boxwood as well as its many surrounding trees add to the unity of the composition.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET**

**NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Villa de Speranza

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
New Year's Gift, Route 97, Roxbury Mills Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Glenwood

STATE: Maryland COUNTY:

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Della Ratta

STREET AND NUMBER:  
New Year's Gift

CITY OR TOWN: Glenwood STATE: Maryland

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Tax Map #21, p. 131 580/688 9.96 Acres.

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Howard County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City STATE: Maryland 21043

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:  
21 State Circle

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: Maryland 21401

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Villa de Speranza has been built in several stages. It is believed that the log cabin west of the house (see Plan) dates from the 1730's. A date of 1788 on the keystone of the fireplace in the old kitchen (see Sect. A) dates this part of the house, originally used as a kitchen. It is three bays wide and one bay deep with central rectangular batten wood door located on the east wall. Its gabled roof runs north-south. A first floor rectangular double-hung window with six-over-six lites rests in the north bay of this section, while a rectangular first floor double-hung window with six-over-three lites lies in its south bay. A single one and a half story room lies above with supporting roof beams exposed and a central rectangular window lying in the east wall. A two bay wide, two bay deep, dining room (1st floor) - master bedroom (2nd floor) addition with intersecting gable roof (running east-west) springs from the west wall of this early part of the house. A 1st floor commode located on the east side of the large fireplace on the south wall of Section A may have afforded space for an interior one-way staircase originally, but this is only conjecture.

Lying north of this single room is the main body of the house built shortly after this. It is a five bay wide, two bay deep, two and a half story brick covered with stucco gabled roof (running east-west) structure with central north and south entrances and hall. Wide brick chimneys are set into its east and west wall. Fenestration is rectangular, double-hung with six-over-six lites, proportionally scaled and vertically aligned. The east and west walls of the house hold two four lite casement windows. The east wall holds; in addition, a first and second floor window, similar to those described with a one lite basement window, in the south bay, and a gabled roof enclosed basement entrance in the north bay.

The central doorway is an open bible and cross paneled rectangular wooden door surmounted by a nine lite transom & flanked by 3 vertical side lites. The central second floor window above the entrance is flanked by vertical double-hung windows with two-over-two vertical lites. A two story flat roofed porch with balustrade is supported by six square pillars and runs along the entire north elevation. The south elevation holds two first and second floor windows in its two west bays and a first and second floor entrance on to a screened-in porch and second floor terrace respectively.

At a very early stage in the development of this house the kitchen was connected to the main house by what is now called the music room. It is a two and a half story high, two bay wide, one room deep, gabled roof structure whose west wall holds a rectangular cross and open bible wood-paneled entrance in the north bay and six-over-six lite window in the south bay.

Two second floor rectangular six-over-six lite windows lie in its east and west wall. A triangular one story addition lies in the northwest corner (there is also a square brick chimney located here) of the porch which connects the master bedroom suite to the second floor hall of the main house. A 12 lite door rests in this corner which leads on to the second floor terrace connecting the master bedroom to the hall of Section B (See Plan). A single gabled roof central dormer rests in the roof of the east and west elevations. It holds a rectangular, double-hung window with six-over-six lites surmounted by a closed pediment and flanked by pilasters.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Villa de Speranza  
Description  
Cont.

The interior is of interest for when this connector was built, it may have been completely separated from the upstairs, of Section B. Its north wall appears to lie flush with the south wall of Section B (See Plan) and it has its own interior staircase on its north wall. A difference in the pine floor of the central staircase of Section B and the triangular addition which creates a connecting hall also adds evidence that these halls were connected at a later time. An interior staircase on the north wall leads to the attic room formed by the east and west gables which creates a charming bedroom. The interior rooms feature random width pine floors, and a mantle in the east bedroom, of Section B (See Plan). The second floor of the music room creates space for the connecting halls, two baths and closet space and hall into the master bedroom suite which is composed of a sitting room above the original kitchen, Section A and a master bedroom above the recently constructed dining room addition.

A new service wing has also been added affording two extra rooms and bath on the second floor and kitchen and work space on the first floor.

This service wing is four bays wide and two bays deep with an exterior brick chimney on its south wall and rectangular entrance in the second bay of the east wall. A gabled roof hood covers this entrance.

A log cabin (see site plan) lies north of Section B. It is a two bay wide, two bay deep, gabled roof (running east-west) house of log. Its south wall holds a rectangular first floor double-hung window with six-over-six lites. Two first floor double-hung rectangular windows holding six-over-six lites rest in its east wall with a similar second floor window above. The west wall holds a sole first floor window similar to the others with a square boarded up second floor window above. The rectangular entrance door is located in the center of the north wall with a similar first floor window in the east bay.

An interesting one and a half story gabled roof (running east-west) two bay wide, one bay deep, brick (laid entirely in Flemish Bond), lies east of the recent service addition. It has a rectangular batten wood door centered into its north wall, with a rectangular wooden casement window in the east bay. A twenty lite rectangular first floor window is centered into its west wall. An exterior brick chimney is located on its east wall.

Barns and auxiliary buildings lie west of the log cabin and a lovely pond northwest of the house.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)      1788

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry	losophy	<u>Architecture</u>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention	Science	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape	Sculpture	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture	Social/Human-	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature	itarian	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military	Theater	_____
	Music	Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

New Year's Gift it appears, has been confused with the tract of land by that name near the Old Brick Church, now Christ Church, Guilford, which was owned by John Dorsey of Hockley, who also bought land in Western Howard County.

Warfield on p. 441 of his book, Founders of Anne Arundel And Howard Counties, Md., speaks of John Dorsey and Colonel Richard Dorsey, descendants, locating in sight of each other on land along the Westminster Road, now Route 97, from Glenwood to Roxbury. He goes on to say that John built his house near Mt. Calvary Church.

A keystone over the fireplace at Villa de Speranza has the date of 1788 inscribed upon it which would place the house in the correct time frame. The five bay wide, two and a half story high gabled roof brick part of the house looks to the northwest as Warfield describes.

Later the property was owned by Dennis P. Gaither and his son Danny. It passed through several hands to the present owners Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Della Ratta.

Architecturally it is significant as an example of how houses were begun simply and added to as need dictated and prosperity allowed. It is located on a northwest connecting road which may in the future be widened. Due to Villa de Speranza's proximity to this road, Route 97, and to the area included in a proposal for an extension of Triadelphia Reservoir, it is imperative that this house be considered for the National Register and any local landmark legislation, as well as inclusion into the State Critical Areas Program.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Villa de Speranza

Newman, Harold. Ann Arundel Gentry. Annapolis, 1971.

Warfield, J.D. Founders of Anne Arundel & Howard Counties, Md. Baltimore, 1973.

Interview with Mrs. Joseph Della Ratta at Villa de Speranza, March 11th and 14th, 1977. (774-7626)

Holland, Celia. Personal notes and papers collected from Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Della Ratta and from her own personal research.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Please see Attachment I, Tax Map 21, P. 131 580/688 9.96 acres.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET AND NUMBER:

3450 Courthouse Drive

CITY OR TOWN:

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

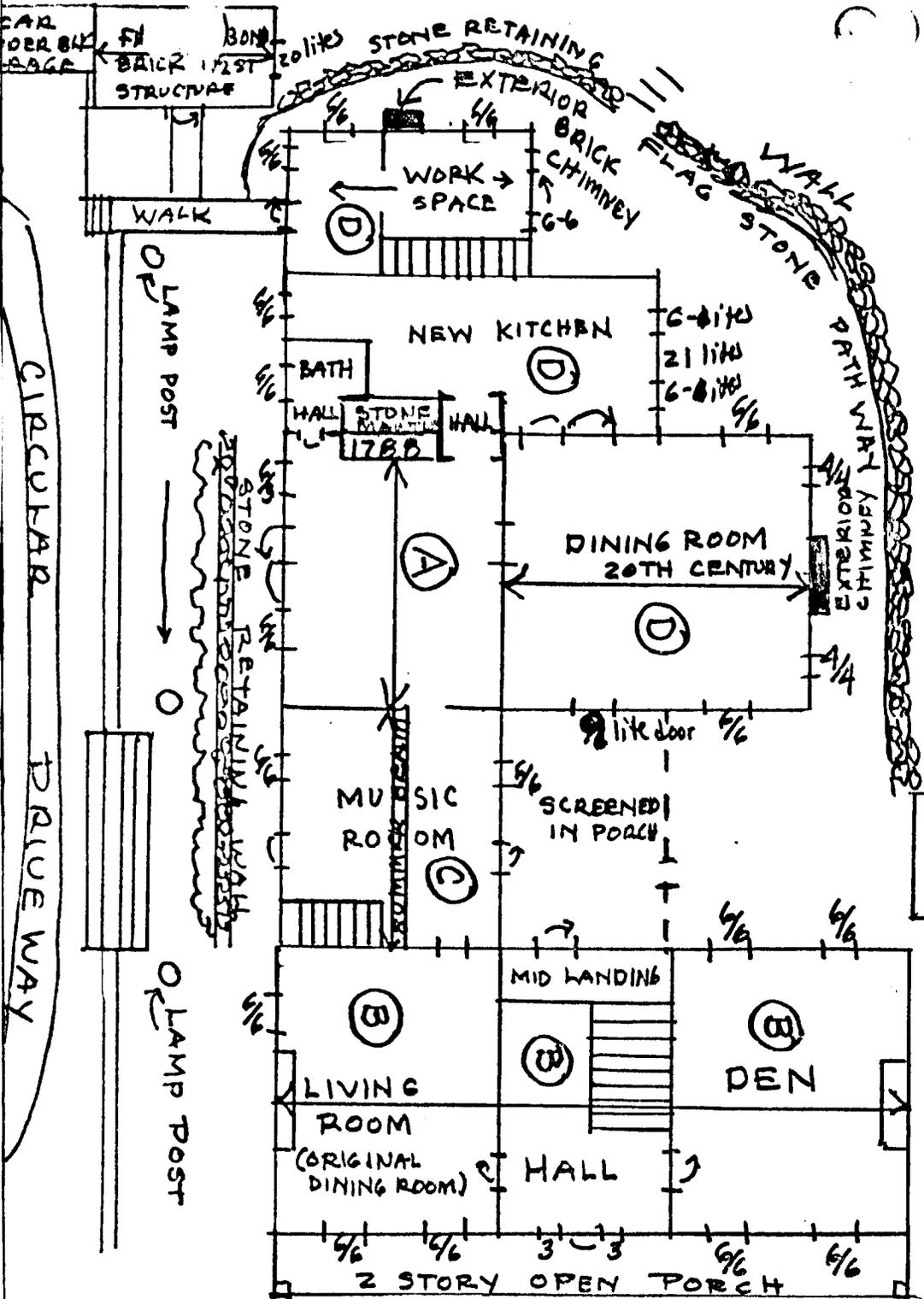
21043

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local

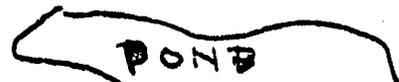
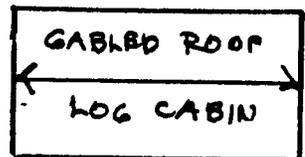
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

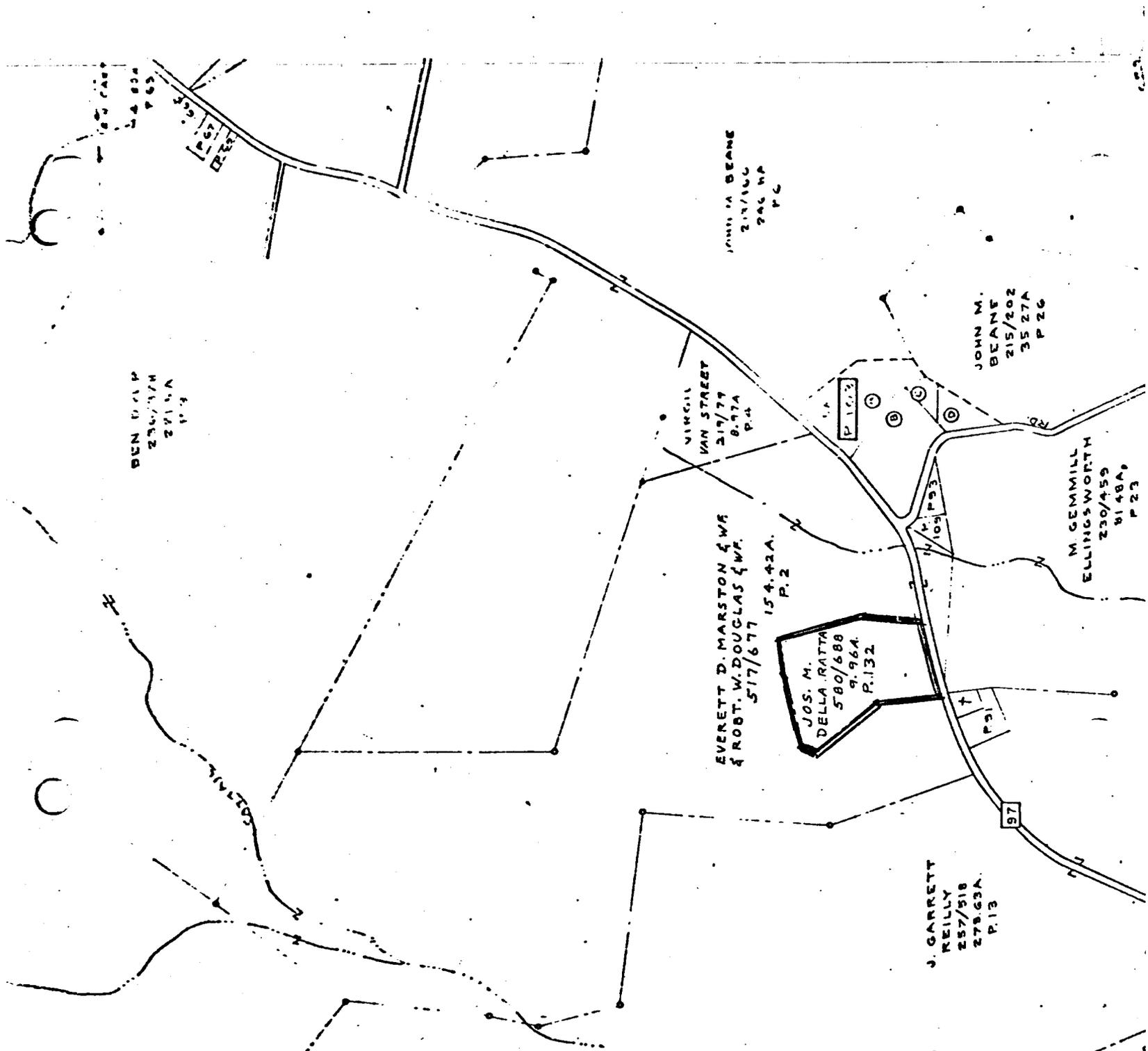


# HO-10 VILLA DE SPERANZA

## SITE PLAN

□ BARN  
 &  
 AUXILIARY  
 BUILDINGS  
 LIE  
 WEST  
 OF  
 LOG  
 CABIN





ANNE B DUNN  
364/499 PAR II  
6681A  
P.1

BEN D. CLIP  
230/174  
2715A  
P.2

JOHN A BEANE  
217/100  
296 NP  
P.2

JOHN M.  
BEANE  
215/202  
35 27A  
P.26

VIRGIL  
VAN STREET  
217/79  
8.97A  
P.4

EVERETT D. MARSTON & WIFE  
& ROBT. W. DOUGLAS & WIFE  
517/677 154.42A.  
P.2

JOS. M.  
DELLA RAITTA  
580/688  
9.96A.  
P.132

J. GARRETT  
REILLY  
257/518  
278.63A.  
P.13

M. GEMMILL  
ELLINGSWORTH  
230/459  
91.48A.  
P.23

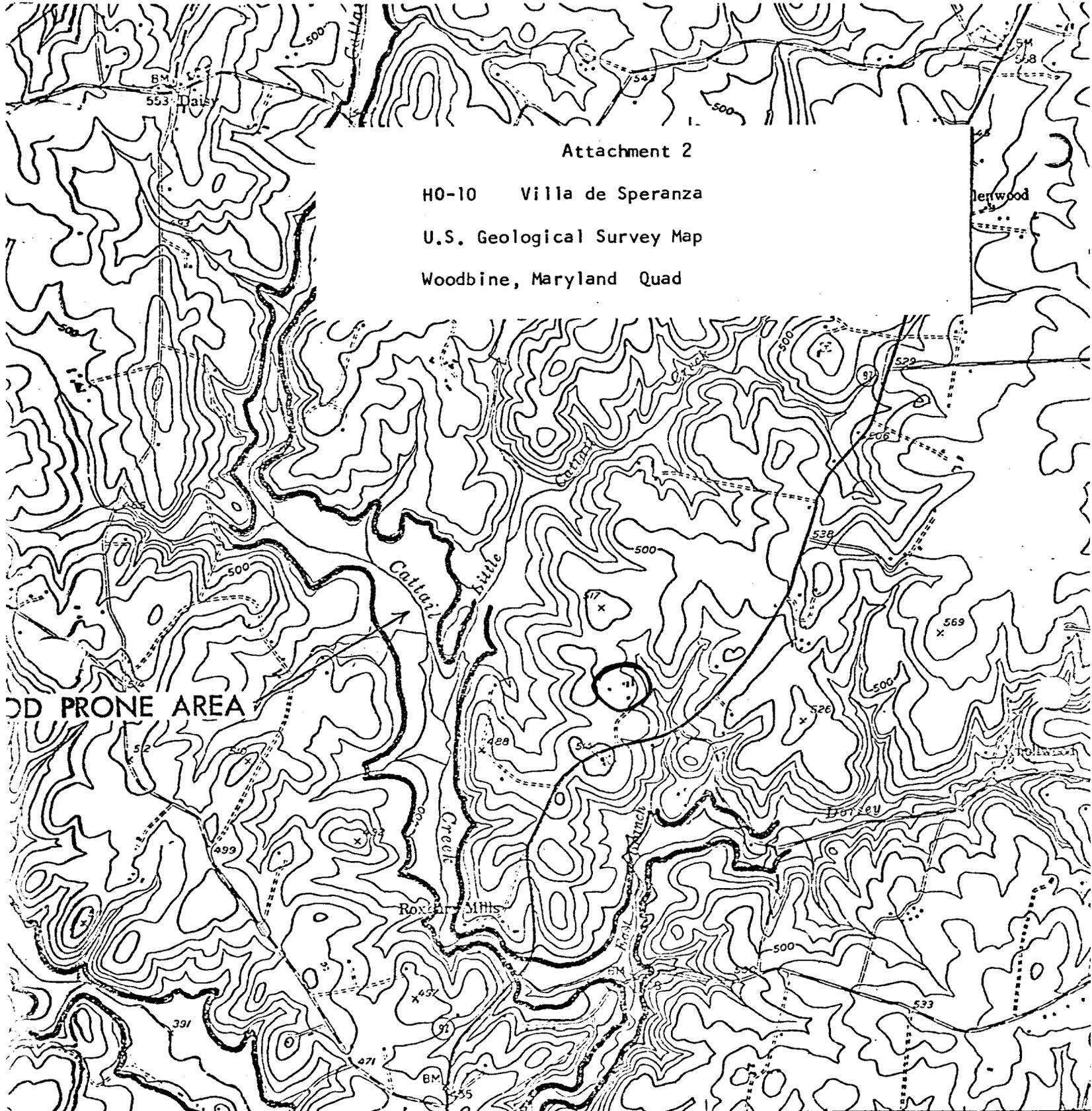
Attachment I  
H0-10 Villa De Speranza  
Tax Map # 21

Attachment 2

H0-10 Villa de Speranza

U.S. Geological Survey Map

Woodbine, Maryland Quad

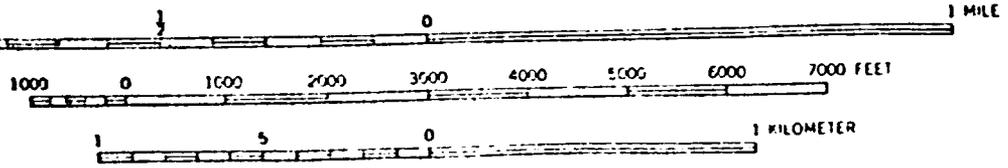


ROAD PRONE AREA

1321 (SANDY SPRING) 5562 II NE 2'30" 1324 1325 INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL

SUNSHINE 2.1 MI. BROOKEVILLE 5 MI.

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL





CLEORA BARNES THOMPSON  
PLANNING CONSULTANT  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

HO-16 NEW YEAR'S GIFT  
(NORTH)  
MAR. 77