Ho-86
The Railroad Hotel
Ellicott City
Private

circa 1847

The Railroad Hotel is a six bay wide, four story high gabled roof (running east - west) granite stone block structure (recently repointed) accentuated with rectangular windows proportionally scaled and vertically alligned. The latter are decorated with flat stone lintels, projecting wooden sills and black shutters. Four rectangular entrances surmounted by three light transons and flat stone lintels are located in the two east and west bays of the south or front facade.

The structure was built as a hotel for railroad men and originally consisted of some eighteen rooms, each of which had a fireplace, with a hall and staircase 26" wide at each side of the semi-detached building. After the flood of 1972 general renovation by the present owners, John and Mary Swann was necessary and the building brought up to code. The staircases were enlarged to 42" and more spacious rooms created.

Ho-86
Dist 2
MAGI # 1400865425

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

# INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC: Railroad Hotel, West Ilchester

AND OR COMMON: Turn Over A New Leaf, The Meeting House

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 8030-8034 Main Street

CITY, TOWN: Elicott City — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6th

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Howard

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| X DISTRICT | __PUBLIC | X OCCUPIED | __AGRICULTURE | __MUSEUM |
| __BUILDING(S) | X PRIVATE | __UNOCCUPIED | X COMMERCIAL | __PARK |
| __STRUCTURE | __BOTH | __WORK IN PROGRESS | __EDUCATIONAL | __PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| __SITE | **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** | **ACCESSIBLE** | __ENTERTAINMENT | __RELIGIOUS |
| __OBJECT | __IN PROCESS | 1/2 YES RESTRICTED | __GOVERNMENT | __SCIENTIFIC |
| | __BEING CONSIDERED | 1/2 YES UNRESTRICTED | __INDUSTRIAL | __TRANSPORTATION |
| | | __NO | __MILITARY | __OTHER |

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Mr. John T. Swann — Telephone #: 988-9672

STREET & NUMBER: Route 108

CITY, TOWN: Highland — VICINITY OF — STATE, zip code: Maryland

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET & NUMBER: Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN: Ellicott City

Tax Map 25-A p.28

Liber #: 630
Folio #: 485

Land Access: $7450
Building Access: $20950
Total Access: $28,400

STATE: Maryland

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE: 1977 — __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN: 21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

## 7 DESCRIPTION

Ho-86
Dist 2

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| X EXCELLENT | __DETERIORATED | __UNALTERED | XX ORIGINAL SITE |
| __GOOD | __RUINS | XX ALTERED | __MOVED DATE_____ |
| __FAIR | __UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Railroad Hotel is located on the north side of Main Street 3½ feet east of the Town Hall with its east wall attached to the west wall of the Patapsco Hotel. When built circa 1847, the four story structure was used as a Railroad Hotel, divided in half by a stone bearing wall with brick base. In the 1972 flood this central bearing wall dropped five and a half inches due to the bricks desolving in the water. This bearing wall was removed and replaced by one constructed of steel columns and beams bearing 200 lbs. per sq.foot. The roof sagged 18" in the center. Some of the pegged chestnut roof trusses had to be replaced at that time. The rear appendages which Mr. Baker had constructed circa 1960 were torn down by Mr. Swann who brought the building down to the original granite walls, which are all original to the building and have been repointed. Th south facade is constructed of ashlar granite square blocks, proportionally scaled from first to fourth floor, and accented by flat stone lintels and projecting wooden sills. Four rectangular doorways are located on the first floor in the first two east and west bays. Four granite block steps lead to the doorways. Flat stone lintels crown the rectangular doorways which are each surmounted by a three-section light.

Symmentrical fenestration, proportionally scaled from first to fourth floors punctuates the facade. The windows are double-hung with six-over-six lights except the first floor window in the third west bay which holds a four light rectangular display window, benath which is a rectangular sign "The Weaving Depot." Shutters hang at all the windows. A simple wooden cornice adorns the roof line. Wide brick chimneys were once located in the center of the gable roof (running east-west).

After the flood of 1972, all structural changes were made in accordance with the present Howard County Building Code which required halls to be 42" wide. Original halls and stairways were 26" wide and located on each side of the building. They were enlarged to 42" to meet the code. The interior has therefore been altered considerably. A maze of fireplaces were placed in the central bearing wall which were removed with the replacement of the original wall. The original interior plan was laid out in 18 rooms, each having a fireplace. They have been altered to allow for more spaciousness. The fourth floor has its original ceiling and pine floor. No evidence of a kitchen existed, only the small rooms used to accommodate railroad men. The building is built into a 45° slope so that the first floor is quite narrow in depth, while the third and fourth floors are very wide in depth.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| __PREHISTORIC | __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | __COMMUNITY PLANNING | __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | __RELIGION | |
| __1400-1499 | X ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | __CONSERVATION | __LAW | __SCIENCE | |
| __1500-1599 | __AGRICULTURE | __ECONOMICS | __LITERATURE | __SCULPTURE | |
| __1600-1699 | X ARCHITECTURE | __EDUCATION | __MILITARY | __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| __1700-1799 | __ART | __ENGINEERING | __MUSIC | __THEATER | |
| X 1800-1899 | __COMMERCE | __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION | |
| __1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | __INDUSTRY | __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | __OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | __INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES Circa 1847 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Railroad Hotel is one of the few intact early stone dwellings whose facade has not been veneered. It was built by Andrew McLauglin who also had a large hotel in Baltimore near the Railroad Station. It is significant both historically and architecturally, whose construction date can be established between the dates circa 1832 and 1847. An old lithograph of Main Street entitled, "A Sketch from Rock Hill" circa 1832 indicates no building on this site but does indicate the Town Hall and the Patapsco Hotel. A later panoramic view of Ellicott City, date circa 1854 indicates the Hotel in existence. Better still an indenture of November 6, 1847 from The Granite Manufacturing Company to Thomas Wilson mentions the lot or parcel including the following buildings: Patapsco Hotel, Railroad Hotel, stables and ice house. (Howard County Land Records, EPH 7 Folio 357). This deed also refers to an indenture from Joseph Barling to the American Life Insurance Company in September, 1835 (AA County Land Records WL6# 20-Folio 238) John H.B. Latnbe is also mentioned as a trustee. It is possible that he designed the building, though this is not yet substantiated by existing data. It is from this endenture with the Railroad Hotel mentioned, dated 1847, that the building date is established. This deed also mentions an old right of way where the stage coaches and wagons came to and fro from the Railroad Hotel delivering mail and supplies.

On the 2nd September, 1860 a lease from John Veith to Dennis Mulligan was made for a $1,000 rent payment. (WWW 21-116 Howard County)

Most interesting of all is a lease, dated the 16 May, 1877, from Thomas Wilson to Albert Hermes in which two granite stone buildings are mentioned between the Old Town Hall and The Patapsco Hotel. The lease was to run from May 1, 1877 to May 1, 1880 at $15 per month. Mr. Wilson died, however, in 1879 and Thomas Hunt bought the Patapsco Hotel and the Railroad Hotel on March 30, 1881 for $4,000. (Howard County - LJW #43-220). This deed mentions a plat dated September 20, 1875 by W.J. Robinson for Thomas Wilson indicating his property. (Howard County 36-482). After the sale of the Railroad Hotel to Thomas Hunt, the property was sold as a separate entity.

On September 6, 1912 Robert Biggs, trustee for the Hunt family, conveyed the Railroad Hotel to Edwin Rodey. (Howard County 93-567).

On June 25, 1913 Mr. and Mrs. Rodey conveyed the property to the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Howard Council Forty-Six, Junior Order United American Mechanics of Howard County for $3,000. (WWWLC 95-166 Howard County.)

On May 25, 1960 The Howard Council Number Forty-Six, Junior Order United American Mechanics of Howard County et al conveyed the property to Mr. and Mrs. John Baker together with a 3½ feet wide alley way in common.

Mr. and Mrs Thomas Cate bought the property November 30, 1972 (Howard County CMP 621-618) and conveyed it in March, 1973 to John and Mary Swann, the present owners who have undertaken a complete renovation of the building. (Howard County 630-485)

Architechturally noteworthy for its fine stone work and proportions, this historically significant building should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places and any future local land legislation.

Please see last paragraph of significance statement for Ho-62.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Howard County Land Records Office
Interview with Mr. John T. Swann on August 22, 1977. Private research and papers of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Swann
Lithography of Main Street, circa 1832, entitled "A Sketch from Rock Hill."
Sachs Map, circa 1854.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.14 Acres

Please see Attachment I
Tax Map 25-A, p.28

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records
Liber 630, Folio 485

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | COUNTY |
|---|---|
| Maryland | Howard |
| STATE | COUNTY |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION — DATE
Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section — 465-5000 x257

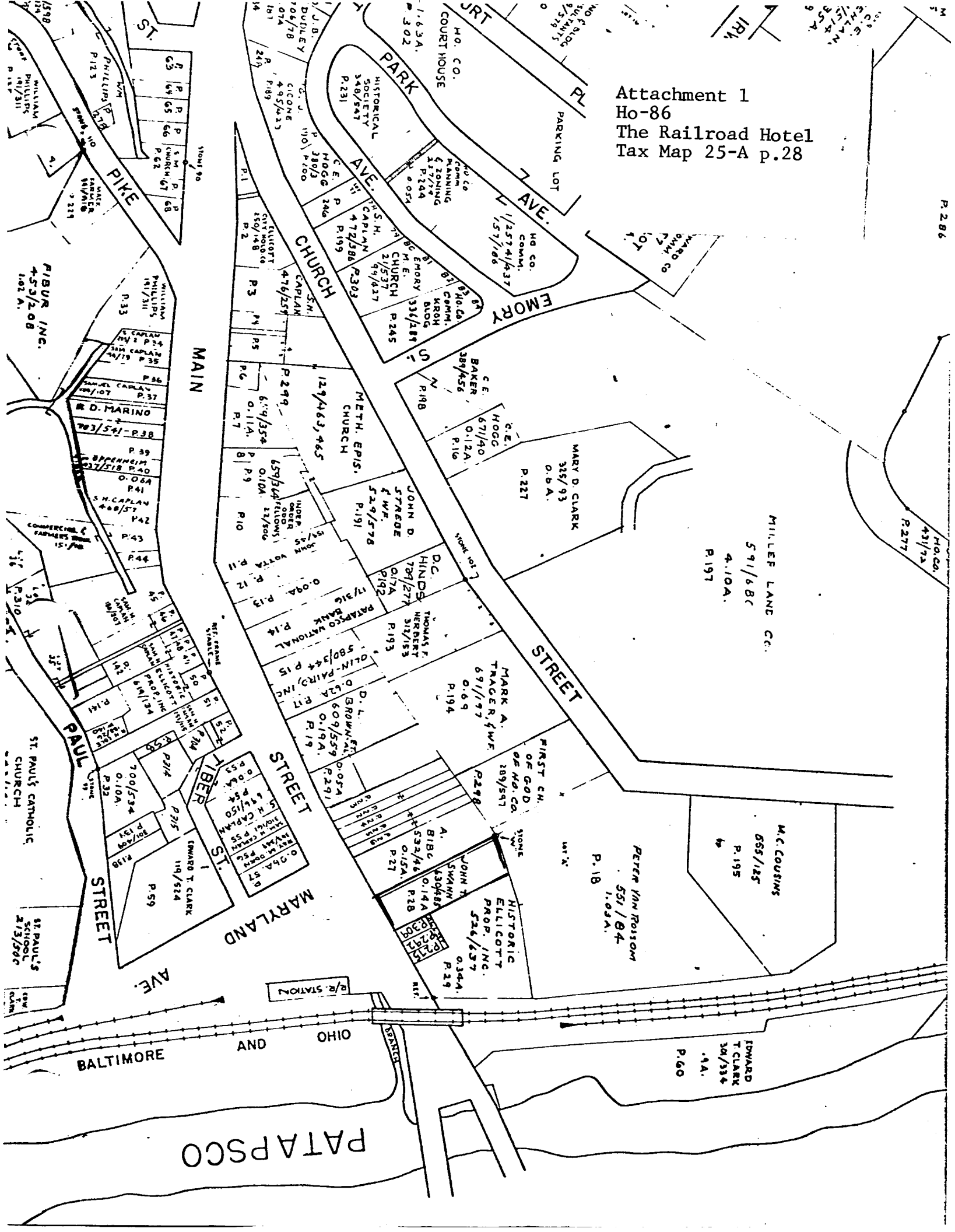
STREET & NUMBER — TELEPHONE
3450 Court House Drive

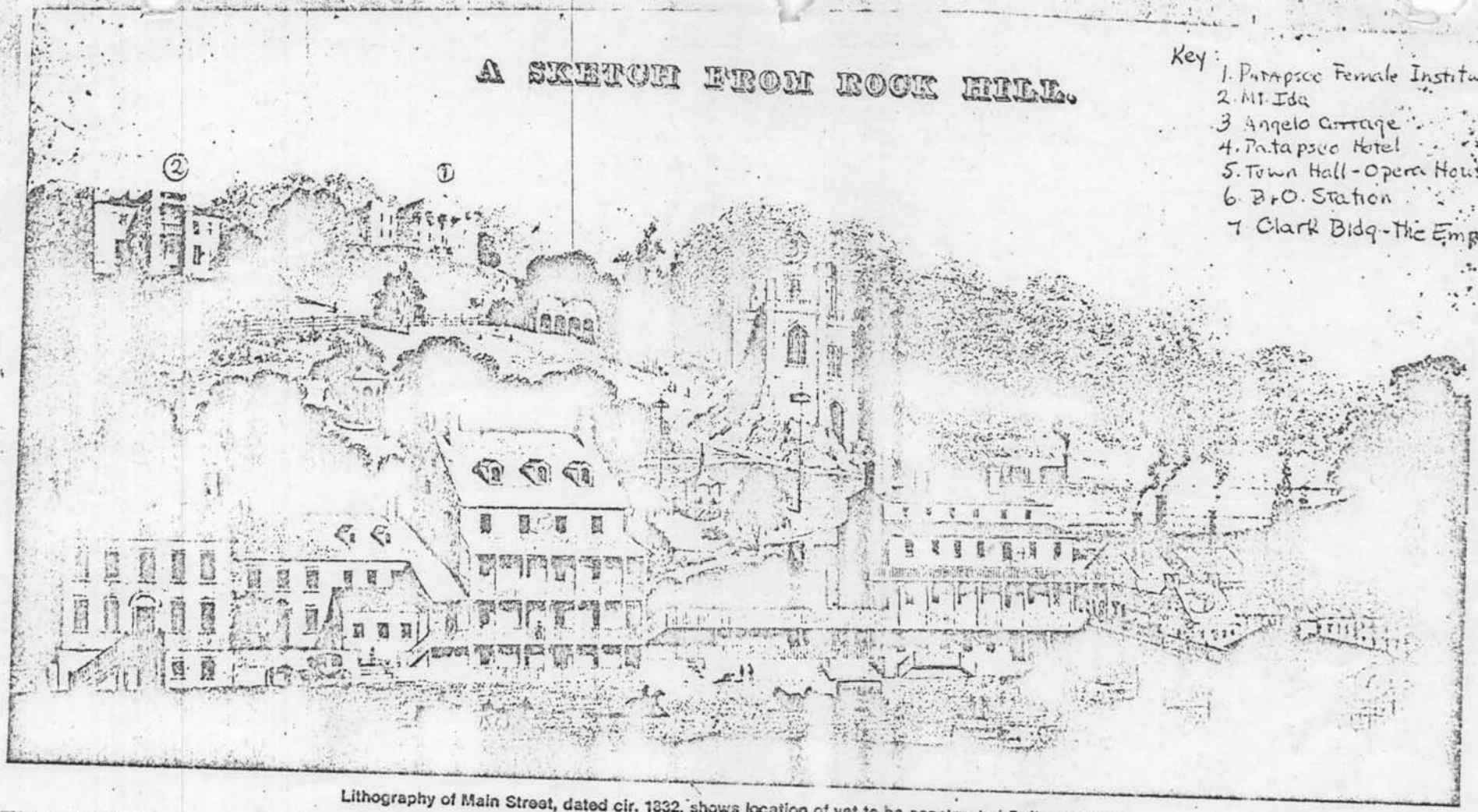
CITY OR TOWN — STATE
Ellicott City — Maryland

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.

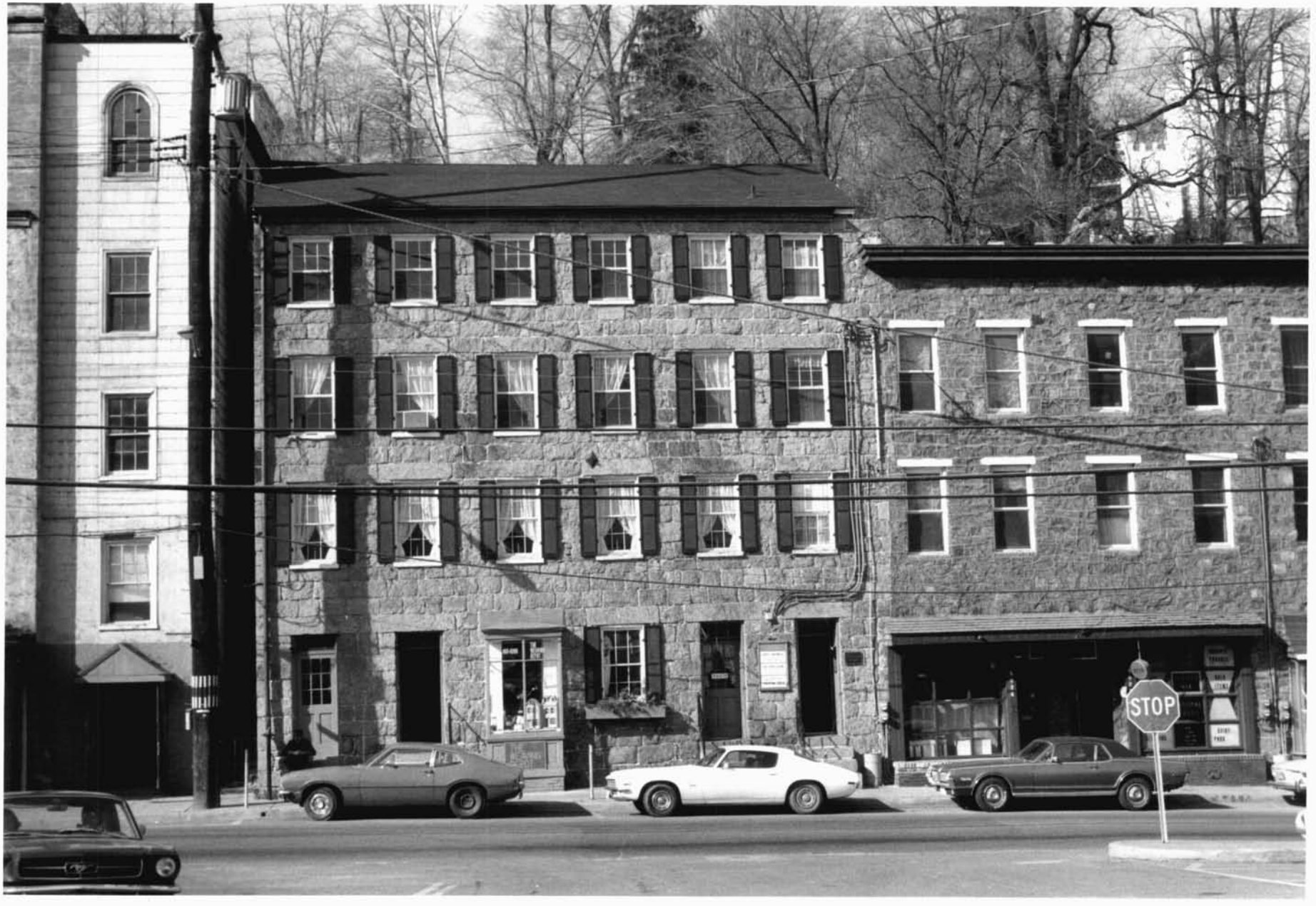
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438


Attachment 1
Ho-86
The Railroad Hotel
Tax Map 25-A p.28
PARK AVE.
CHURCH AVE.
EMORY
MAIN
PIKE
PAUL STREET
MARYLAND AVE.
STREET
PARKING LOT
HO. CO. COURT HOUSE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY 348/547 P.231
HO. CO. COMM. 1/257/41/437
HO. CO. PLANNING & ZONING 237/114 P.244
HO. CO. COMM. KROH BLDG 336/289 P.245
BC M.E. CHURCH 21/537 99/427
METH. EPIS. CHURCH 129/463, 465
JOHN D. STREGE & WF. 529/578 P.191
D.C. HINDS 739/277 P.192
THOMAS F. HERBERT 312/153 P.193
MARK A. TRAGER, & WF. 691/197 0.09 P.194
D. L. BROWN, ET AL 609/559 0.19A. P.19
PATAPSCO NATIONAL BANK P.14
GLEN-PAIRS, INC 580/344 P.15
HISTORIC ELLICOTT PROP. INC. 526/637 0.34A. P.29
FIRST CH. OF GOD OF HO. CO. 289/597 P.298
A. BIBC 532/46 0.15A. P.27
JOHN T. SWANN 630/485 0.14A P.28
MILLER LANE CO. 591/68C 4.10A. P.197
MARY D. CLARK 325/93 0.6A. P.227
C.E. HOGG 671/40 0.12A. P.16
C.E. BAKER 389/456 P.198
PETER VAN POLSOM 551/84 1.05A. P.18
M.C. COUSINS 555/125 P.195
EDWARD T. CLARK 30/334 .9A. P.60
PIBUR INC. 453/208 1.02A.
ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL 213/500
EDWARD T. CLARK 119/524 P.59
BALTIMORE AND OHIO
PATAPSCO
SPANGS
STONE
P.286
P.277




Lithography of Main Street, dated cir. 1832, shows location of yet to be constructed Railroad Hotel.

Attachment 2
Ho-86
Railroad Hotel
Sketch from Rock Hill, circa 1832


STOP

CLEO[illegible]THOMPSON
PLANNING CONSULTANT
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

Ho-86
Railroad Hotel
(SOUTH)
AUG. 77