

HO - 391  
Olney  
Elkridge  
Private

1879

Olney faces east at the end of Norris Lane, located on the east side of Landing Road, just south of Landing Road Cider Mill. It is constructed in a "T" plan, incorporating and extending eastward a two bay wide, one room deep, now two story high (formerly one story with loft), gabled roof (running east-west) log house which features a wide stone and brick chimney centered into its east wall. The gabled roof of this log house intersects with the three bay wide, two bay deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame addition or mid-section of the house, placed along its east wall, which serves to hold the side entrance on the north elevation. To the west of this latter section has been added a five bay wide, two bay deep, two and a half story high, gambrel roof (running north-south) frame building with shingled decoration on its north and south attic walls and on the central, second floor, gabled roof (running east-west) projecting bay, which is superimposed upon an intersecting attic gable (running east-west). Two wide brick chimneys rise from either side of its west wall.

A one story high, shed roofed, screened in porch runs along the building's east elevation, with one story high open porches along the mid-sections north wall and the log section's south wall.

An intersecting, gabled roof (running east-west) frame attic addition is centered on the west elevation of the main section and rests on the gable roof of the mid-section. In addition, a one story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame and shingled kitchen runs along the north wall of the original log house. Several one story high, gabled and shed roof, appendages extend west from the west wall of the log section.

Fenestration for the house is vertically aligned and proportionally scaled. All windows are rectangular and double-hung, flanked by flat pilasters, underlined by flat sills and surmounted by flat lintels. Those in the log and mid-sections hold six-over-six lights. Varied lights are featured in the main section of the building. First floor windows in this section's east facade hold twenty-over-four lights, while second floor windows hold smaller sixteen-over-two lights and shed-roofed dormer windows hold twelve-over-one lights.

The log section is believed to have been part of Caleb and Priscilla Dorsey's eighteenth century Belmont, while the front section of the building was constructed by Mrs. Elizabeth Cromwell in a transitional Shingle Style, leaning toward its roots in the Queen Anne Style. This building is a truly eclectic building, which features two outstanding bay windows on its south facade and extremely well executed and well designed interior, dark stained woodwork, central hall and staircase, as well as the large stone cooking fireplace, corner staircase and exposed log wall in its original log section.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-391  
Savage Quad  
Dist. 1

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY MAGI # 1403115604

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Olney

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 6781-6810 Olney/Norris Lane

CITY, TOWN Elkridge

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 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. & Mrs. S. E. Greisman

Telephone #: 301- 747-2433

STREET & NUMBER 6781-6810 Olney/Norris Lane

CITY, TOWN Elkridge

STATE, zip code Maryland 21227

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Tax Map 31, p. 525  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Hall of Records

Liber #: 386  
Folio #: 312

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**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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**

Olney faces east at the end of Norris Lane, located on the east side of Landing Road, just south of Landing Road Cider Mill. Olney is constructed in a "T" Plan incorporating at its base a log house and flaring north and south, reminiscent of a telescope house. Its main front section is a five bay wide, two bay deep, two-and-a-half story high, gambrel roof (running north-south) frame and shingled building, resting on a stone foundation, with a central, two story high, intersecting gable roof (running east-west) second floor projecting bay, superimposed upon a central, shingled, intersecting, gable, (running east-west), holding a gothic cut, double-hung window with fourteen-over-one lights. The second floor projection holds two rectangular, sixteen-over-two light, double-hung corner windows on the north and southeast corners of the projection, with a rectangular attic window above. Decorative shingles are featured on this section, with a one-story high, shed roofed screened-in porch running beneath, along the entire east elevation. The main section of the house has one further addition, a central projecting, intersecting attic gable, which rests upon the mid-sections gable roof on the west elevation.

THE SOUTH ELEVATION:

The south elevation is most noteworthy for its two two story high, hipped roof bay windows, centered on the south walls of the front and mid sections of the house. That on the front section is squarely shaped, while that on the mid-section is semi-octagonal. The front sections bay window features three first floor, double-hung windows with fifteen-over-two lights on the south and two similar second floor windows, one on the east wall, the other on the west wall. This bay window features, interior shutters. The second floor windows of the bay are similar but hold twelve-over-one lights. A rectangular, double-hung attic window rests above, holding twelve-over-three lights.

The mid section's bay window features three first floor, double-hung windows, holding sixteen-over-one lights, beneath which rest wooden recesses. The second floor is shingled and holds similar windows with twelve-over-two lights.

The south elevation of the log section holds a rectangular entrance door, surmounted by a two light transom. The second floor holds a central rectangular, double-hung window, holding six-over-six lights. A one story high, shed roofed open porch runs along the south elevation, partially enclosed and incorporating an outdoor flush on its west side, semi-enclosed on its east side. Steps lead to the porch landing, west of which rest one story high, shed and gabled roof frame appendages for general use as a tack room,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

storage area and woodbin.

### THE LOG HOUSE

The Log house faces south and is a two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east-west) old eighteenth century building, whose gabled roof intersects with the gable roof (running north-south) of the mid section to the house. The log house once held only a loft with dormer windows which was later raised to a full second floor.

### THE MID-SECTION

The mid-section of the house is a two story high, three bay wide, two bay deep, frame building, which serves to hold the side entrance on the north elevation and the corner staircase for the front section's central hall. This midsection features a one story high, shed roofed, open porch held by a square post and pilasters, which runs along its north wall, covering this entry. Above rests a tripartite staircase window on the east side, each component a square, nine-light window, flanked and separated by flat pilasters, all of which is underlined by a flat sill and surmounted by a flat lintel. A rectangular, double-hung, second floor window rests west of this staircase window, with evidences that at one time a square attic window was placed at this elevation. The south elevation of this midsection features the outstanding two bay high, hipped roof bay window, just described, while its east and west walls are joined to the west wall of the front section and the eastwall of the log house respectively.

### THE KITCHEN ADDITION

The log section holds a further addition along its north wall. It is a six bay wide, one room deep, one story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame and shingled kitchen addition, which holds six six light windows along its north facade, separated and flanked by flat pilasters, all of which are surmounted by a single flat wooden lintel, upon whose two central bay windows rest two similar windows, flanked at each end by a shutter. The upper section of the "A" is shingled, featuring flat wooden lintels which do not meet centrally, but extend to the east and west.

### THE INTERIOR

The interior of each section of Olney is outstanding. The log section features an enclosed corner staircase, exposed north wall and large stone, cooking fireplace in which has been set a wood stove with patent number and date 1872, inscribed Magee's Standard #2.

The mid section holds the wide and beautifully paneled corner staircase for the wide paneled central hall of the front section. This latter section features unusually fine unpainted, dark stained woodwork and large, well lighted rooms with oak mantle pieces.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

Page 1 of 3

HO-391  
Savage Quad  
Dist. 1

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1879

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Olney is significant historically and architecturally to the State of Maryland and Howard County, Maryland.

Historically, the building is important in the local history of the County, standing on land once a part of Caleb Dorsey's Belmont, now used as a conference centre for the Smithsonian Institution. The building incorporates a log kitchen (now a family dining room) which may date back to the early eighteenth century of Caleb and Priscilla Dorsey.

More recently, the building's history reflects the influence which the Railroad from Baltimore to Ellicott City, through Relay, Orange Grove and Ilchester had on the settlement of the Lawyer's Hill-Belmont Area of the County during the middle of the nineteenth century. The railroad furnished rapid transportation to Baltimore City from the country side around Elkridge and Ilchester, creating a desirable location for summer residences. In the case of Olney the site was chosen by Mrs. Elizabeth Cromwell Norris of Baltimore as a healthy environment to raise her three children year round and by 1879 a large Victorian or Queen Anne Style house had been constructed, incorporating the small log house and utilizing it as a kitchen in its overall plan. Mr. Harmon was the builder.

Mrs. Norris kept an extensive diary of her life at Olney. Several buildings here were constructed by her, a farmhouse, to house the farmer and his family and two shingled style tenant houses for rental property, all of which remain and are under separate private ownership. Circa 1890 the Knolls was constructed and a few years later the second tenant house.

Although Mrs. Norris was obviously a woman of means, with servants to assist in the daily household chores and the management of the farm, she was also a thrifty and wise steward of her possessions, using and developing them in a progressive manner. Materials and construction costs are itemized in her diary, as well as her concern for finding proper tenants for her houses, designed in the latest Shingle Style of the day.

Not only her real estate ventures are noted but her second thoughts about taking her residence in such an out-of-the-way location, difficult to enter during bad weather. Stories abound which indicate the trials

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

which she and her tenants faced, such as the day when the doctor sent to help deliver a baby for her tenant, Mrs. Hays, was stuck in the mud at the entrance to the property and failed to show up in time for the baby's birth. Such events created a desire to seek a more convenient place, but then what more pleasant house and surroundings could one find than that of Olney? Here Mrs. Norris remained and later her son Richard and his wife made their home here happily.

Architecturally, Olney is a transition building, truly eclectic in that it blends many elements, having its roots in the Howard County vernacular with overtones of the Gothic Revival Style, but also taking a step in the direction of the Shingle and Queen Anne Styles.

Its eighteenth or nineteenth century log kitchen represents Howard County's vernacular architecture. So, too, does its floor plan in the main section of the house, which features a central hall, with a large room located on each side. Here the vernacular component ends, for the central hall leads into the central, gabled roof section of the house, which holds a back entrance hall to both the log kitchen wing and the building's major dining room. In addition, its northeast corner is utilized as the central hall's corner staircase. This corner staircase is a transitional feature. The main, central hall is still long and rectangular, but an attempt has been made to keep it open and place the staircase in a corner. This staircase, however, is not unimpressive, but wide and luxurious, featuring side paneling which is also a feature of the central hall, and an intermediate landing, well lighted by a tripartite, horizontal rectangular window.

But for the symmetry of the building's east facade, Olney would be most representative of the Queen Anne Style by the following features:

1. Varied Roof Forms

Olney's main section's Gambrel roof combines with its two story high, hipped roof, bay window and its gabled roof, second floor, central projecting east bay, superimposed on still another intersecting central attic gable with two shed roofed attic dormer windows located on the east facade. In addition, its gabled roof midsection intersects the log kitchen wing's gable roof to form a "T".

2. Windows hold Various Lights

Olney features this element of the Queen Anne Style. Almost all of the windows of the house are proportionally scaled, vertically aligned, rectangular and double-hung. Here their similarity ends. First floor east facade windows hold twenty-over-four lights, while second floor windows hold sixteen-over-two lights and attic windows, twelve-over-one lights. A sixteen light transom surmounts the rectangular entrance door, with two light transoms over the eight flanking vertical side lights. Six-over-six light windows are also located in the log and mid sections of the house, as well as six light casement windows on the kitchen wing's north elevation.

The building also reflects architecturally the Shingle Style with the second floor and attic shingled.

The building is also a fine example of what is commonly known as a telescope house, with the east wall additions to the once one and a half story high, gabled roof, log, one room kitchen becoming increasingly wider, forming a telescope. The gabled roof, one story high, kitchen addition on the log section's north wall mitigates this somewhat, but essentially the building does flare outward north and south.

In conclusion, Olney is a truly eclectic building with strong transitional features of the Queen Anne Style blending with and into features of the shingle style, constructed basically in the form of a telescope.

The interior of the building in the following sections is also significant:

The Log Section Features:

- 1 - The north wall of the log section exposed to reveal the original log construction.
- 2 - The large open cooking stone fire place, holding a wood stove marked "MAGEE'S STANDARD #2 1872" with the patent.
- 3 - A corner enclosed staircase placed in the southwest corner of this section.

The Mid Section Features:

- 1 - The fine, wide corner staircase, one of the finest architectural features of the house.
- 2 - A large formal dining room, with oak mantelpiece on its east wall and bay window on its south.

The Front Section Features:

- 1 - Large, well lighted rooms with oak mantelpieces.
- 2 - Outstanding, central paneled hall.
- 3 - Outstanding, darkly stained woodwork, window frames and interior, cross-paneled doors.

For these reasons Olney is of outstanding architectural and historical significance to Howard County and the State of Maryland and should be placed on the National Register, the State Critical Areas Program and any future local landmarks legislation, which the citizens of Howard County may seek to initiate, should its owners so desire.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Interview with Mrs. C. E. Greisman  
on November 8, 1979 at Olney

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 17.43 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 31

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 386 Folio 312

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



# APSCO STATE PARK

MORE CO  
RIVER RD.

Attachment 1  
HO - 391  
Olney  
Tax Map 31

22  
OA.  
622  
C.R. KACHALO  
630/507  
7.82A.  
F. ROTH - P. 614  
632/372  
B. 85A.  
P. 613

STATE OF MARYLAND  
255/347  
3.22A.  
P. 135

ROBT. M. RISING  
481/394  
41.52A.  
P. 134

ST. OF MD.  
106/275

CLIFFORD J. BOBO  
585/734  
SA.  
6

JOS. P. GATTUS & W.F.  
478/39  
P. 569

ST. OF MD.  
M. 32-P. 98

CHAS. E. HOFFMAN  
SCHUM 531/619  
524/624 5.35A.  
6.20A. P. 140

EDW. V. DOYLE & W.F.  
492/748  
8.35A.  
P. 141

SE. GREISMAN  
386/312  
17.43A  
P. 525

STATE OF MD.  
DEPT. OF FORESTS  
& PARKS  
502/65, 612/633  
134.27A.  
P. 137

EDW. V. DOYLE  
515/709  
R.W. PARRY  
506/117  
5.00A.  
P. 577

2.31A.  
P. 588

STATE OF MD.  
DEPT. OF NAT. RESC.  
867/279  
38.42A.  
P. 591

2  
A  
P. 598

3.87A.  
514

P. 64

P. 538

P. 496

NEEDHAM LANE

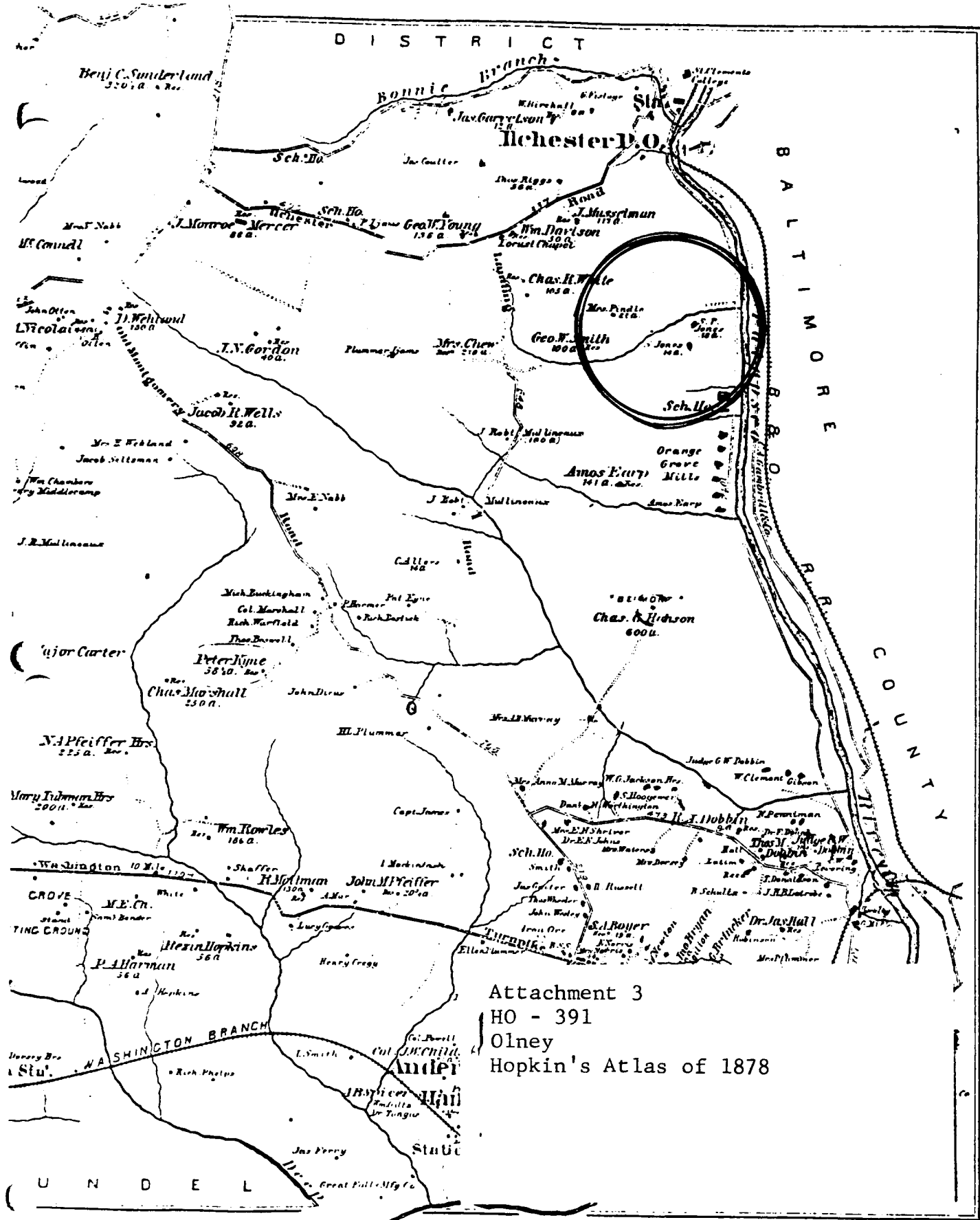
STATE OF MD.  
DEPT. OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
653/645  
83.72 A

SMITHSON-  
-IAN INST.  
546/160  
23.07A.  
P. 600

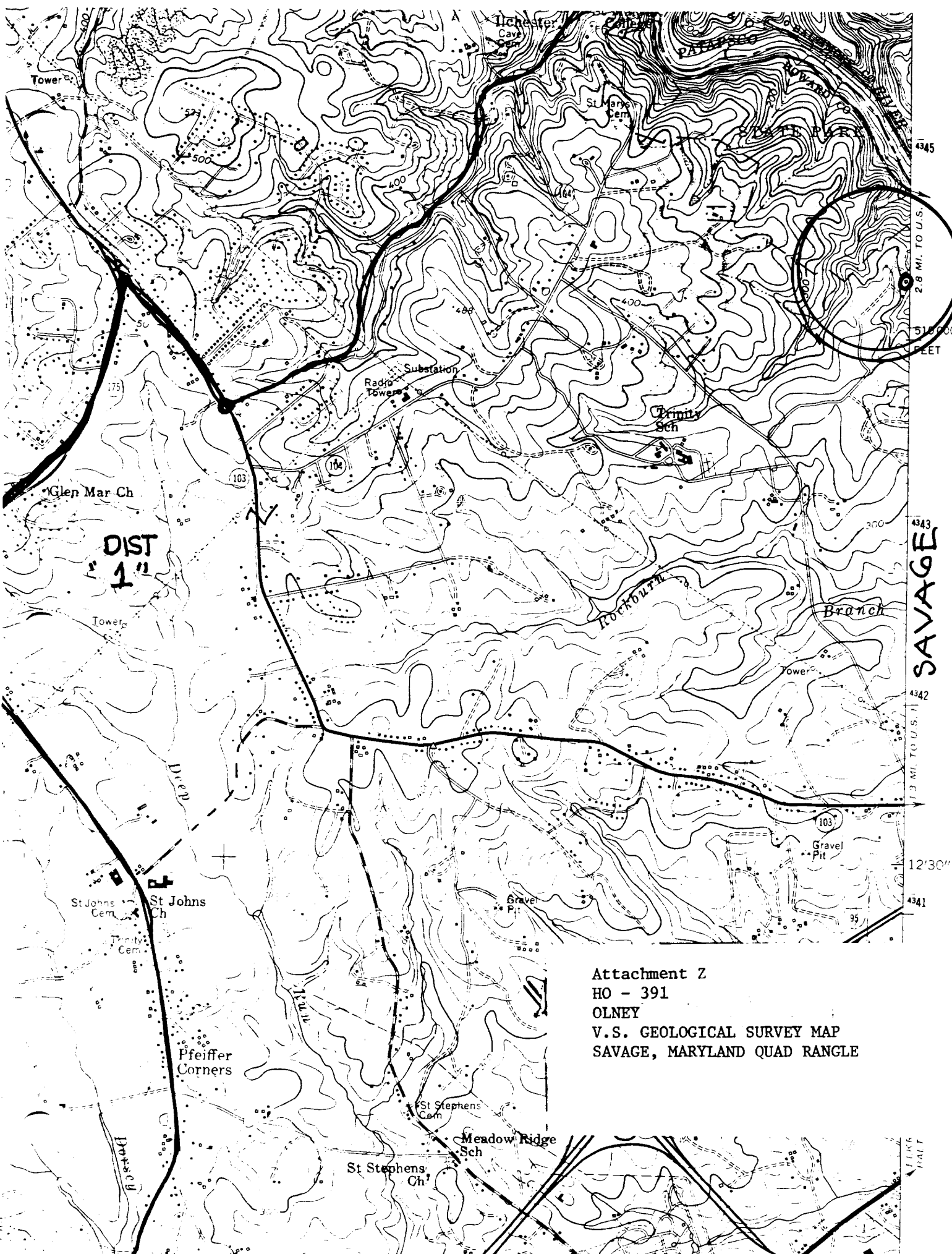
MAP 32-P. 83

ST. OF MD.  
MAP 32-  
P. 98

RIVER



Attachment 3  
 HO - 391  
 Olney  
 Hopkin's Atlas of 1878



4345

2.8 MI. TO U.S.  
516000  
FEET

4343

SAVAGE

4342

3 MI. TO U.S.

12'30"

4341

Attachment Z  
HO - 391  
OLNEY  
V.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY MAP  
SAVAGE, MARYLAND QUAD RANGLE

LINK  
PART



HO-391  
OLNEY  
EAST  
NOV 79

BY: BARRY THOMPSON, AICP  
FIELD CONSULTANT  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY