

HO-454  
The Knoll  
Elkridge  
Private

1890

The Knoll faces east at the end of Olney/Norris Lane, off the east side of Landing Road.

It is a two bay wide, two bay deep, two and a half story high, gambrel roof (running north-south) frame, with shingled second and attic floor, shingle style house, constructed on a stone foundation, with a wide central brick chimney and another diagonally placed, wide brick chimney on the building's west wall. The building also features two, gabled roof, east dormer windows and two shed roof, west dormer windows. A two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, intersecting gambrel roof kitchen addition is placed off the north bay of the building's west wall, which is also constructed of frame, with shingled upper floors, constructed on a stone foundation. A shingled, gable roof, second floor, enclosed porch addition rests upon the one story high, open porch along the south elevation of the kitchen wing.

The building is essentially a square with first floor voids along the building's east elevation and in the southwest corner of the building. All fenestration is rectangular and double-hung, holding six-over-six lights in various dimensions. Windows located in the upper floors are decorated with three rows of shark's teeth shingles.

The Knoll was constructed by Elizabeth Cromwell Norris in the latest Shingle Style of that day, as an income producing rental property.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-454  
Savage Quad.  
Dist. 1

MAGI # 1404545604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The Knoll

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 6802 Olney/Norris Lane

CITY, TOWN Elkridge VICINITY OF 6th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 Charles and Joan Hoffman Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER 6802 Olney/Norris Lane

CITY, TOWN Elkridge, VICINITY OF Maryland STATE, zip code 21227

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE. Tax Map 31, p. 140  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

Liber #: 531  
Folio #: 619

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-454  
Savage Quad  
Dist. 1

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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

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

The Knoll faces east at the end of Olney/Norris Lane, off the east side of Landing Road.

It is a two bay wide, two bay deep, two and a half story high, gambrel roof (running north-south) frame, with shingled second and attic floor, shingle style house, constructed on a stone foundation, with a wide central brick chimney and another diagonally placed, wide brick chimney on the building's west wall. The building also features two gabled roof east dormer windows and two shed roof, west dormer windows. A two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, intersecting gambrel roof kitchen addition is placed off the north bay of the building's west wall, which is also constructed of frame, with shingled upper floors, constructed on a stone foundation. A shingled, gabled roof, second floor, enclosed porch addition rests up on the one story high, open porch along the south elevation of the kitchen wing.

Otherwise, the building is essentially a square with first floor voids along the building's east elevation and in the southwest corner of the building. All fenestration is rectangular and double-hung, holding six-over-six lights in various dimensions. Windows located in the upper floors are decorated with three rows of shark's teeth shingles. The void of the east facade is created for use as a one story high open porch, which is supported by six square posts and covers the rectangular, one light, first floor, paneled main entrance door, located in the north bay, which is surmounted by a narrow, projecting lintel. This north bay is recessed slightly and holds a rectangular, double-hung, first floor window, holding six-over-six lights south of the entrance.

A similar, but wider, window is located in the south bay of this wall. Above rest the two gabled roof dormer windows, previously mentioned.

#### The South Elevation of Main Section

The south elevation holds two similar first floor windows, underlined by three light basement windows inset into the stone foundation. Above rest two second floor windows between which is placed a shingled diamond pattern and above that a single, central attic window, similar to the others but smaller in scale.

#### The North Elevation of Main Section

The north elevation of the main section holds a wide first floor east bay window, similar to those described and a narrower west bay window. A four light, rectangular window is located at the landing

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

of the staircase, just west of centre, with another located above it. Two second floor windows and a central attic window are also located in this wall. Three wide, wooden steps, flanked by wooden bannisters, lead to the east elevations, first floor open porch.

#### West Elevation of Main Section

This wall holds the first floor, dining room's, four light, rectangular, entrance door in its south bay. Above, a second floor, gabled roof (running east-west) shingled, enclosed porch, featuring eight light, casement windows extends westward, lying flush with the west wall of the kitchen wing and creating a roof for the one story high, open porch for the kitchen, which lies off the north bay of the main section's west wall.

Two shed roofed, attic dormer windows rest in the north and south bays of the west wall. They hold double six-light, square casement windows, separated and flanked by pilasters.

#### West Elevation of Kitchen Wing

The west elevation of the kitchen holds a first and second floor window, similar to those described, with a cellar door beneath.

#### South Elevation of Kitchen Wing

This south elevation holds a four light, rectangular kitchen door in the west bay and a window, similar to those described, in the east bay. A shed roofed casement window, similar to those located in the main section's west elevation is located above.

A tall, diagonally placed, wide brick chimney is located on the northwest corner of the main section of the house, completing the building profile. A two story high, (running north-south) frame gambrel roof carriage house is located just north of the kitchen, connected by a one story high hyphen, with rectangular, cross paneled west entrance door. A frame barn lies northeast of the house.

The interior features fine hardwood floors and a noteworthy staircase. Mantlepieces in the hall and living room feature flanking columns holding scrolled brackets which support their mantle shelves.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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      1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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

Architecturally, it is an exceptionally fine example of the Shingle Style, reminiscent of the Joseph House in Middletown, Rhode Island, Clarence S. Luce, architect. Such elements as the Gambrel roof, varied roof dormer windows and first floor voids, utilized as open porches, are found in each of the two houses. The second floor and attic of The Knoll are covered with shingles, indicative of this style. The varied roof lines in the shed and gable roofed dormers are also a feature of the Shingle Style as well as the Queen Anne Style, which it succeeded as the most "up-to-date" mode for houses around 1880. Whiffen, in his book American Architecture Since 1780, describes the Shingle Style as follows:

as an architecture in which the frame is totally concealed and walls and roof are perceived as a thin skin shaped by the enclosed space, it represented the ultimate reaction against the structuralism of the Stick Style, that high Victorian architecture of skeleton. . . . a style that brought a new freedom and openness into the planning of the American House.

This new freedom and openness to which Whiffen refers is best reflected in the interior plan and shape of the house. Rather than a central hall and staircase, off which two rooms, a parlor and sitting room are placed, we find a corner hall and staircase, with a living room flowing into a dining room, separated by two wide doors. The long, rectangular shape of the house now becomes more square and compact with the staircase located in a corner, opening up the long hall of the former plan into a more square, compact and useable space. The Knoll's entrance hall thus becomes almost another sitting room or study, as well as an ante room/hall and the flow of space between the living and dining room has been increased by eliminating the large double doors altogether. The kitchen wing of both plans remains, however, with its separate corner staircase leading up to the servants' quarters above.

The dimension and horizontal compactness of the Knolls, as well as its overall simplicity and restraint make this building one of the finest in Howard County exemplifying the Shingle Style.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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.

Around the year 1879, Elizabeth Cromwell Norris constructed Olney, located southeast of the Knoll for herself and her children and moved from Baltimore City to Elkridge. Mrs. Norris kept an extensive diary and after living at Olney for some ten years, decided to construct two tenant houses, as an income producing venture. The first of these houses constructed was the Knoll, which was built in the very latest fashion of the day, reflecting the good taste and avant guard quality of the owner of Olney. Though a lady of means, with servants to help with the everyday household chores, Mrs. Norris was also a thrifty steward of her possessions and through the pages of her diary, a reflection is seen of these everyday concerns which touch all humanity. The construction of the Knoll was a major real estate venture and her concern for its successful completion and subsequent occupancy flows through the pages of her diary. Materials and construction costs are listed and later a dinner planned for a prospective occupant. Solicitude concerning human relations is also mirrored in her diary. Later pages reveal the completion of the Knoll and its occupancy by an extraordinarily fine couple, Mr. and Mrs. Hays, who furnish not only companionship but abiding friendship to Mrs. Norris and her family.

The concerns which each of us face in our daily lives, a desire for right relationships with God and man and successful working relationships in business endeavors are all reflected in Mrs. Norris' diary, meeting happily with their final successful resolution.

The Knoll is no longer a dependency of "Olney", but is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman, who like the building's first residents, have formed deep and meaningful relationships with the family inhabiting "Olney."

Interesting as a page in the local history of Elkridge and Howard County and architecturally an outstanding example of the Shingle Style, the Knoll should be considered for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places, the State Critical Areas Program and any local landmark ordinance which the citizens of Howard County may seek to initiate, should its owners so desire.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mrs. Joan Hoffman, November 7, 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.35 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 31

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 531 Folio 619

### 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

EAST ELEVATION

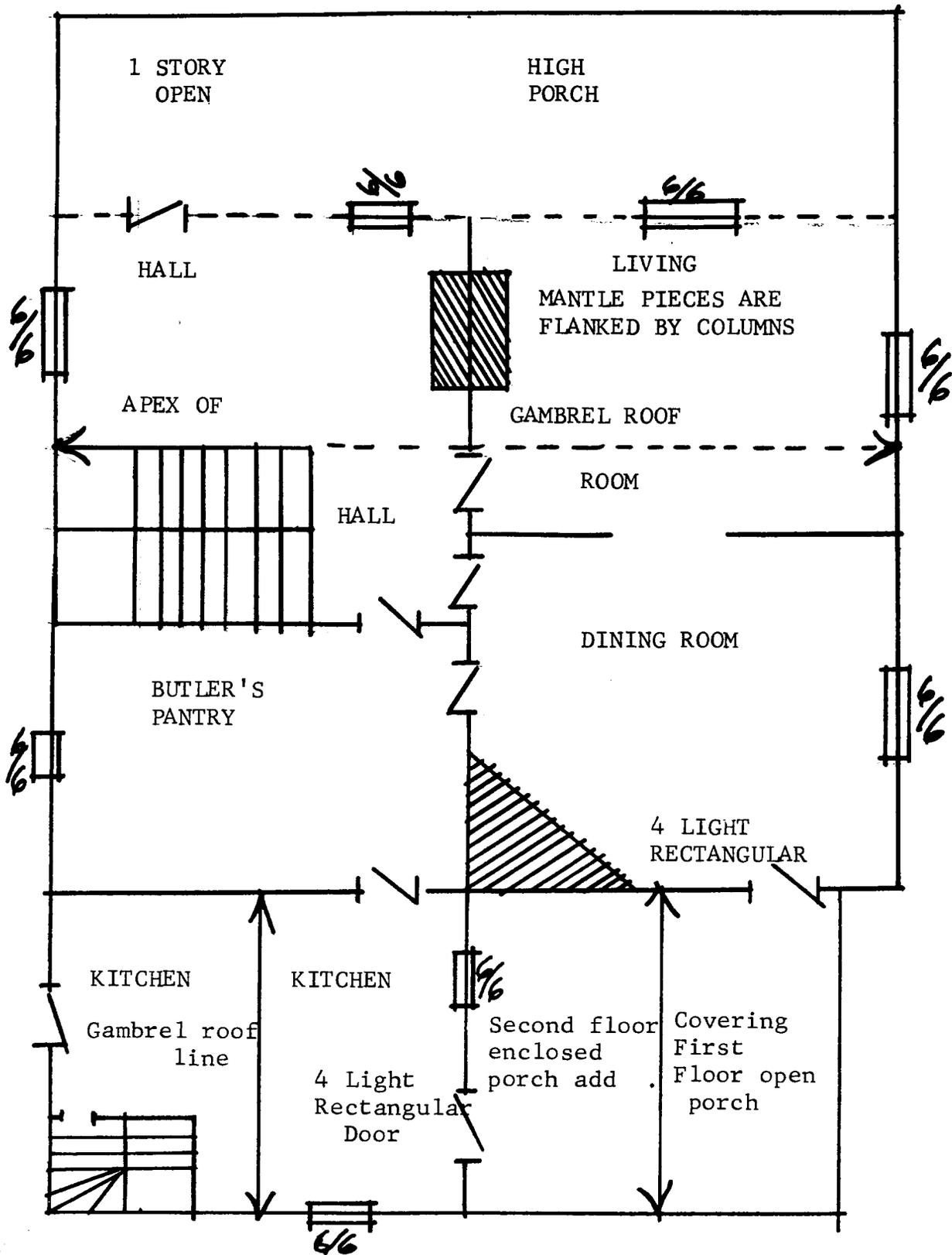
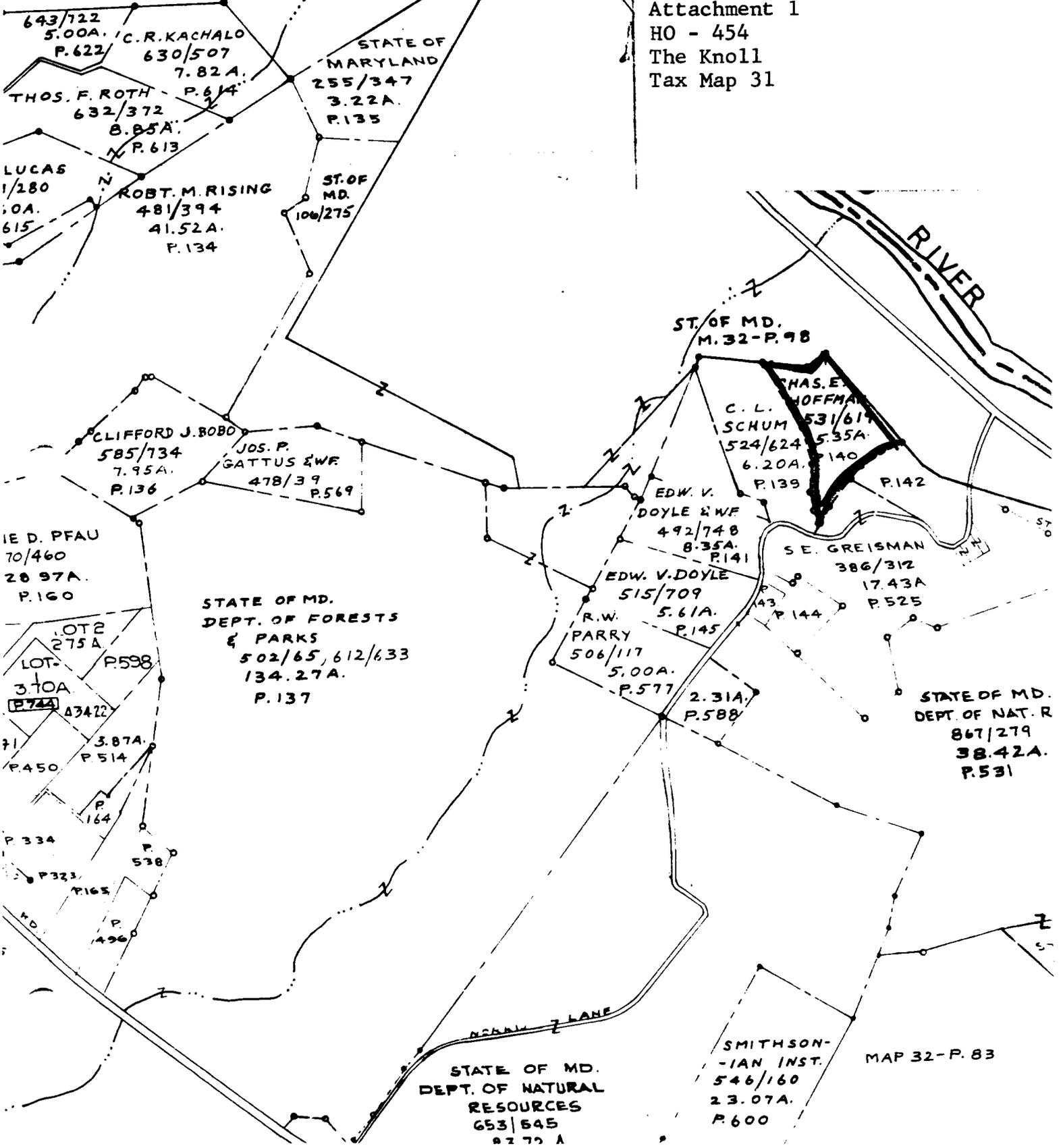


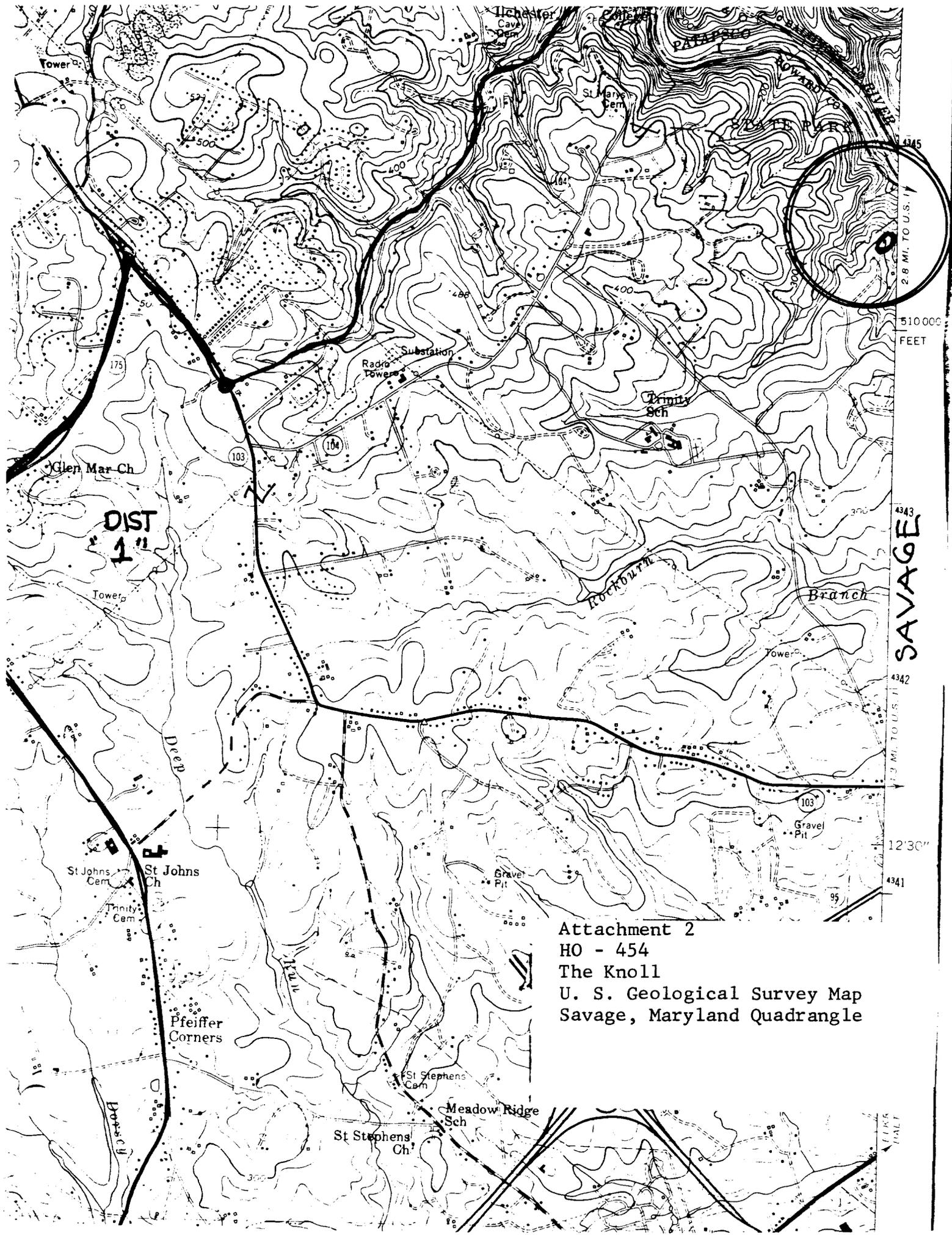
FIGURE 1  
 HO - 454  
 THE KNOLL  
 FIRST FLOOR PLAN (NTS)

# PAPSCO STATE PARK

MORE CO  
RIVER RD

Attachment 1  
HO - 454  
The Knoll  
Tax Map 31





Attachment 2  
HO - 454  
The Knoll  
U. S. Geological Survey Map  
Savage, Maryland Quadrangle

2.8 MI. TO U.S. 1

51000  
FEET

4343  
SAVAGE

4342  
2.3 MI. TO U.S. 1

12'30"

4341

LINKS  
HALF



HO-454  
THE KNOLL

SOUTHWEST  
NOU 79

CLEORN BARNES THOMPSON AICP  
PLANNING CONSULTANT  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY