

HO-455  
Idle-A-While  
Ilchester  
Private

Late Nineteenth Century

Facing south on the west side of Beechwood Road, Idle-A-While presents a fine example of the shingle style, so prevalent in American domestic architecture in the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth centuries. Built by Judge Stewart of Baltimore, it comprises two intersecting gambrel roof sections, an east and west wing.

The east wing is a two bay wide, one room deep, two and a half story, gambrel roof (running east-west) cypress frame structure with patterned cypress shingled second floor. It holds the main entrance hall, staircase and living room and features a rectangular dutch entrance door surmounted by stained glass transom and hall window.

The west wing is a two and a half story, three bay wide, two bay deep, intersecting gambrel roof cypress frame building, also featuring a patterned cypress shingled second floor. The building features various gabled roof and jerkin roofed dormer windows holding double-hung windows with lights ranging from six and eight-over-one to sixteen-over-two.

Originally the house was used solely as a summer home for Judge Stewart who was noted for sending out his many surreys with the fringes on top to the Carroll and Warfield holdings to transport their owners to his splendid parties.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-455  
District 1

MAGI # 140455604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Idle-A-While

AND/OR COMMON Judge Stewart's House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
4688 Beechwood Rd.

6th

CITY, TOWN  
Ellicott City

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Howard County

STATE  
Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input 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. Earl H. Heckman

Telephone #: 744-8726

STREET & NUMBER  
4688 Beechwood Road

CITY, TOWN  
Ellicott City

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland 21043

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC  
Hall of Records

Tax Map 31, Liber #: 680  
p. 124 Folio #: 241

STREET & NUMBER  
Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN  
Ellicott City

STATE  
Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE 1977  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN  
21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE  
Maryland

# 7 DESCRIPTION

HO-455  
District 1

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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		

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

Judge Stewart's House is located on the west side of Beechwood Road 3/10 of a mile north of the intersection of Ilchester Road. It is located on the top of a hill 2/10 of a mile west of Beechwood Road, surrounded by ten acres of lawn and woodland through which passes a circular drive. It is composed of two intersecting gambrel roof sections; an east and a west wing.

The east wing holds the main entrance, entrance hall and staircase, and living room. It is a two bay wide, one room deep, two and a half story, gambrel roof (running east-west) cypress frame structure with patterned cypress shingled second story. A wide brick chimney (running north-south) is centered into the roof line, serving two corner chimneys located in the hall and living room.

### East Elevation

This wing's east elevation features a lovely one story high, flat roofed, semi-octagonal open porch supported by four doric columns. A ballustrade runs along the perimeter of the roof line which serves as a second floor terrace. This graceful open porch was completely restored and rebuilt by the present owners.

The second floor of this elevation features a twenty-five light hipped roof oriele window whose north and south sides hold five vertical lights. A rectangular entrance door lies north of this window, while above is placed a rectangular, double-hung, attic window with sixteen-over-two lights.

### South Elevation of East Wing

The south elevation of the east wing features the rectangular entrance door surmounted by a stained glass transom featuring a diamond pattern. East of the entrance is placed a rectangular stained glass window, also surmounted by a stained glass transom, both of which are of a similar design to the transom above the entrance. East of this window is placed a large living room window, holding six-over-one lights. A one story high shed roofed portico covers the main entrance of the house and is supported by six wooden columns and approached by two steps.

The second floor of this elevation features a gabled roof dormer window holding a double window, of which each component is flanked and separated by pilasters and holds six-over-one light double-hung windows. On either side of its gabled roof rest jerkin roofed, attic, dormer windows holding twelve-over-one light windows.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

### North Elevation of East Wing

The north elevation of the east wing is notable for the fine family room addition which follows the outlines of the open porch which it has enclosed. This fine semi-octagonal room features four tall, double-hung windows with nine-over-nine lights and a fifteen light rectangular entrance door on its north-west corner.

The second floor of this elevation features two identical gabled roof dormer windows holding double-hung, rectangular windows with six-over-one lights, flanked by pilasters and surmounted by closed pediments.

An attic dormer is placed west of the two second floor dormers and holds twelve-over-two lights.

### The West Wing

The west wing holds the large dining room and kitchen with bedrooms above. It is a two and a half story, three bay wide, two bay deep, intersecting gambrel roof cypress frame building with patterned cypress shingled second floor.

### South Elevation

The south elevation of the west wing holds two rectangular first floor, dining room windows which hold six-over-one lights. A single second floor rectangular, double-hung window holds eight-over-one lights and is decorated with a projecting wooden lintel.

A smaller rectangular double-hung attic window is centered into the roof line, holding sixteen-over-one lights.

### The North Elevation

The north elevation holds two first floor, rectangular, double-hung kitchen windows, holding six-over-six lights, decorated with shutters.

Two vertically aligned, proportionally scaled second floor windows hold six-over-four lights with an attic window, centered into the roof line, holding sixteen-over-two lights.

### The West Elevation

The west elevation of the west wing of the house is perhaps the most dramatic with its three tall gabled roof dormer windows, decorated by closed pediments surmounting six-over-one light windows. Above these three dramatic windows are placed a wide, jerkin roofed attic dormer window which holds two square twelve-over-one light windows.

The north bay of this wall holds the rectangular kitchen entrance

which is covered by shed roofed open porch, supported by wooden columns.

An old spring house lies some 200 yards west of the house and a one story high three car garage northwest of the house.

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Idle-A-While is significant both historically and architecturally. Historically, it denotes the age of the summer villa in Howard County during the mid to late Nineteenth century when wealthy Baltimoreans built their summer homes here and partied from the 1st of May to the 1st of September. It was built by Judge Stewart of the Circuit Court of Baltimore City, sometime after 1878 after some of the country villas he had seen in northern France.

The building is significant architecturally as an example of the shingle style so popular in late Nineteenth century domestic architecture. The gambrel roof is constructed of patterned cedar shakes over a first floor composed of graduated cedar frame siding. The Queen Anne style is reflected in the many dormer and oriele windows which decorate the roof line at every elevation and hold varied light panes, ranging from six and eight-over-one to twelve-over-one.

In conclusion, the house stands to remind us of a more leisurely day when the good Judge Stewart, renowned for his many surreys "with the fringes on top" sent them out to Doughoregan Manor and to Oakdale to bring Howard County society to gather at his famous parties. These parties were almost continuous throughout the summer months until September first, when he closed up the house to go back to Baltimore.

Architecturally significant and thoughtfully restored by its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Heckman, it is one of Howard County's finest landmarks and should be placed on the National Register, should its owners so desire.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

HO-455  
District 1

Interview with Mrs. Earl Heckman at  
"Idle-A-While", January 25, 1978

Howard County Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10.027

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 31, p. 124

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber #: 680,  
Folio #: 241.

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 465-5000 x257

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.

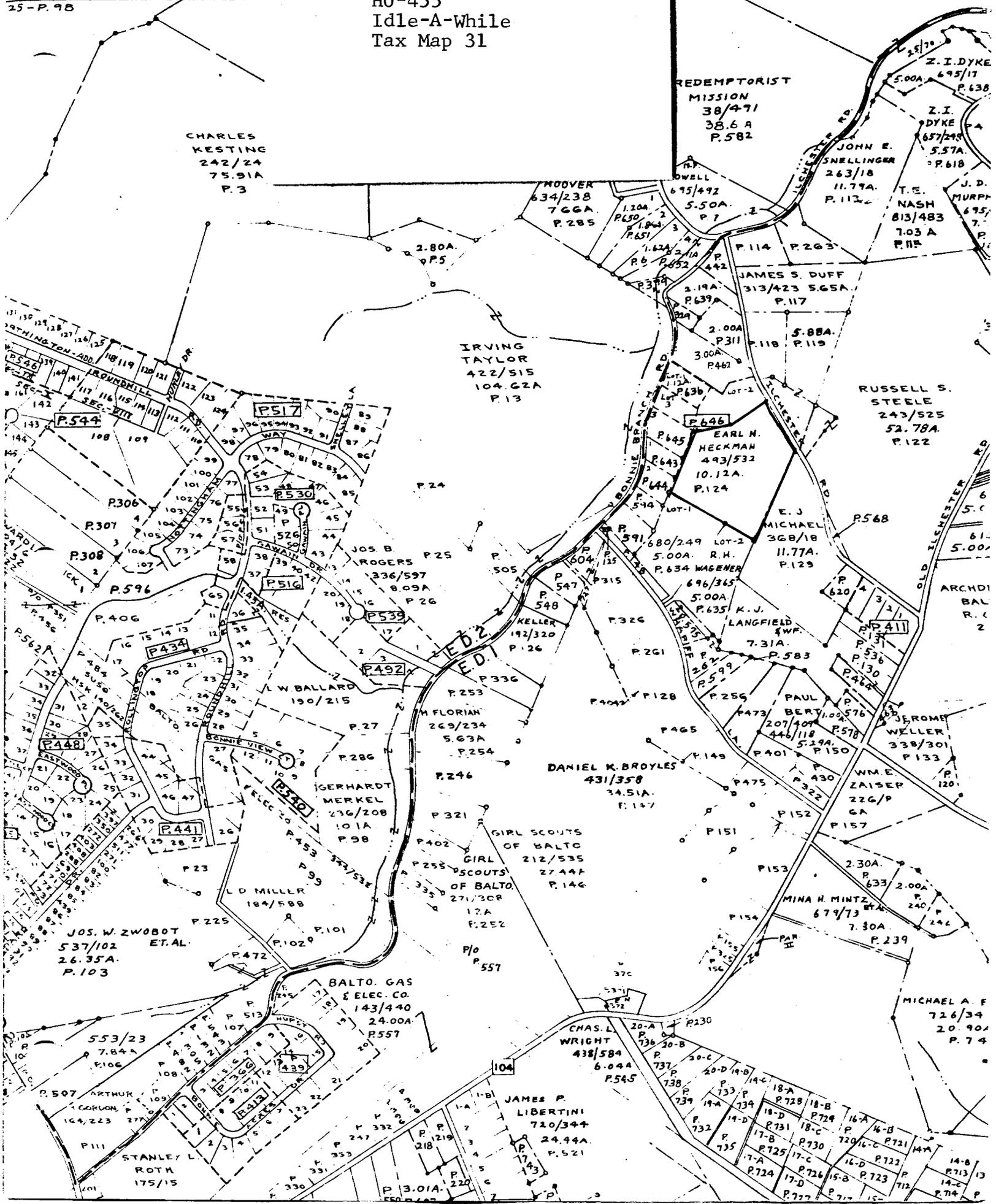
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

Attachment 1  
HO-455  
Idle-A-While  
Tax Map 31

MAP 25-P.81

25-P.98



ONE

SAVAGE QUADRANGLE

MARYLAND

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE 1/4 LAUREL 15' QUADRANGLE

Attachment 2  
Ho- 455

Idle-A-While  
U.S. Geological Survey Map  
Savage, Maryland Quadrangle

S. 29  
944

Tower

Glen Mar Ch

Radio Tower

Substation

Trinity Sch

Rocky Branch

Tower

St Johns Cem

St Johns Ch

Trinity Cem

Grave Pit

St Johns Cem

St Johns Ch

Trinity Cem

Grave Pit

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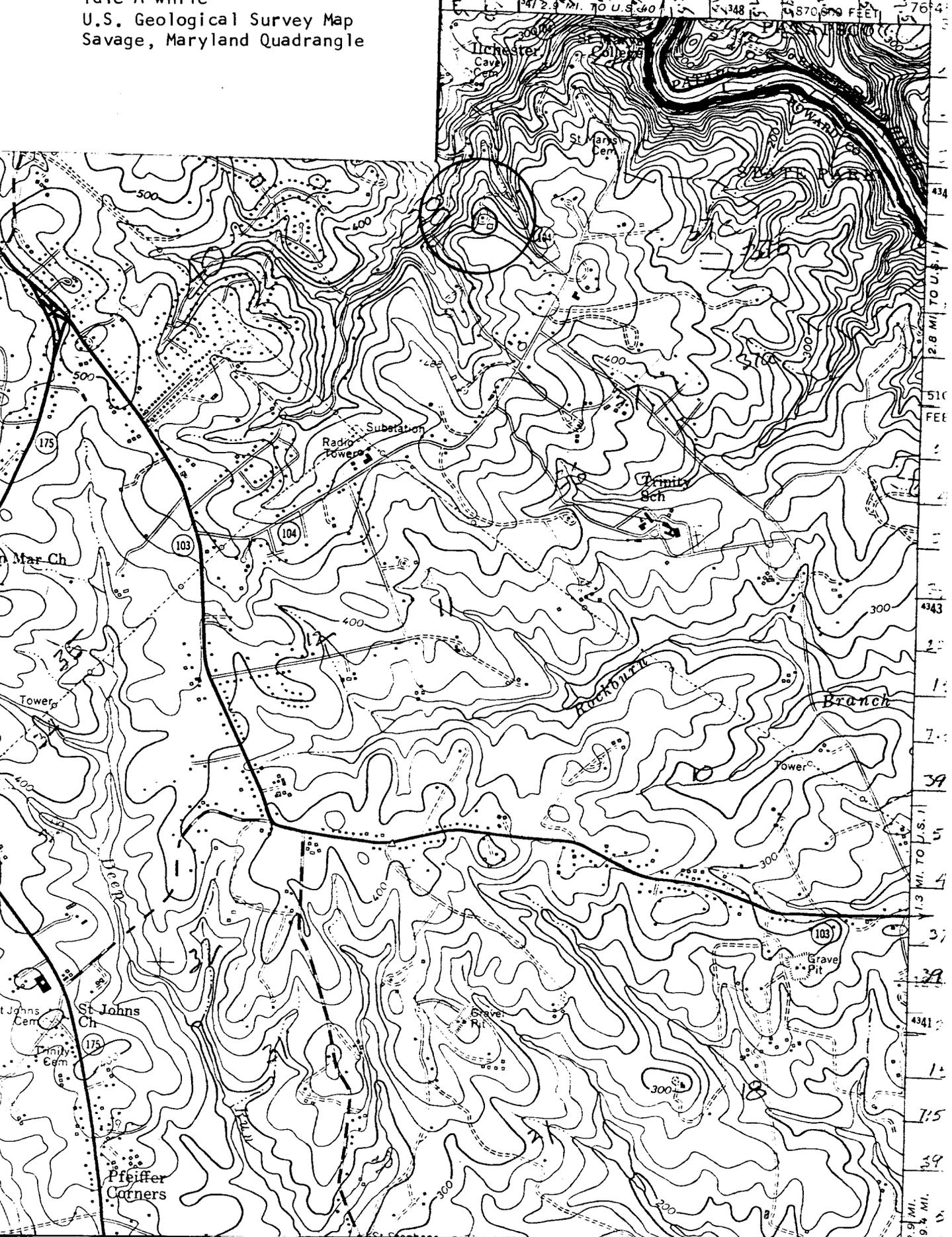
St Johns Cem

St Johns Ch

Trinity Cem

Grave Pit

St Johns Cem



76°4'

750

740

730

720

710

700

690

680

670

660

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1.3 MI. TO U.S. 1

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MI. TO U.S. 1

0.9 MI.

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HO. 455  
JUDGE STEWART'S HOUSE  
NORTHWEST  
CEORIA THOMPSON, AIF