

HO-551
The Eye of the Camel
Columbia
Private

CIRCA 1820

The Eye of the Camel faces south on the south side of Vantage Point Road, north of Oakland Manor. It is a three bay wide, two bay deep, one-and-a-half story high, gabled roof (running east-west) stone building, resting on a full, stone foundation, with wide brick chimney centered into its west wall and an intersecting attic gable (running north-south), holding a roman arched, double-hung window with six-over-six lights. The central rectangular, south entrance door for the building is fronted by one wide, granite block, surmounted by a flat stone lintel and flanked by single, rectangular, double-hung, first floor windows. Each window holds six-over-six lights, is underlined by a flat wooden sill, and surmounted by a flat stone lintel.

A one bay wide, one bay deep, two story high, shed roofed, frame addition runs along the central and west bays of the north elevation

Associated with Oakland Manor, the building may date from the eighteenth century. Recently, it has been used as an art study, called the "Eye of the Camel", but now is boarded up.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-551
Savage Quad
District 5
MAGI #1405515335

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Eye of the Camel

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 9879 Vantage Point Road

CITY, TOWN Columbia VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6th

STATE Maryland COUNTY Howard

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 Howard Research & Development Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER Attn: Mrs. M. Dunham
P.O. Box 833

CITY, TOWN Columbia VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 21044

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Tax Map 30, p. 353 Liber #:
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records Folio #:

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 - 551
Savage Quad
District 5

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Eye of the Camel faces south on the south side of Vantage Point Road, north of Oakland Manor. It is a three bay wide, two bay deep, one-and-a-half story high, gabled roof (running east-west) stone building, resting on a full, stone foundation, with wide brick chimney centered into its west wall and an intersecting attic gable (running north-south), holding a roman arched, double-hung window with six-over-six lights. The central rectangular, south entrance door for the building is fronted by one wide, granite block, surmounted by a flat stone lintel and flanked by single, rectangular, double-hung, first floor windows. Each window holds six-over-six lights, is underlined by a flat wooden sill, and surmounted by a flat stone lintel.

A one bay wide, one bay deep, two story high, shed roofed, frame addition runs along the central and west bays of the north wall, creating an "L" plan.

THE EAST ELEVATION

The east elevation of the stone house holds a ground floor, rectangular entrance. Two first and attic floor, vertically aligned, rectangular, double-hung windows holding six-over-six lights, rest in this wall. Iron grates are placed over the ground floor entrance and the first floor, south bay window.

The east wall of the shed roof, frame addition slopes downward, creating a full, ground floor level, holding a rectangular entrance and north of the entrance a window, similar to those described, covered by an iron grate. A similar, first and second floor window lies above.

THE WEST ELEVATION

The west wall of the stone house once held two first floor windows, similar to those described, which have now been blocked in with matching stone work, now covered by ivy. A similar, rectangular, attic window is centered into the "A" line formed by the gable roof.

The west wall of the frame addition holds a similar first floor and attic window. At this elevation, with the deep slope of land, which occurs on this elevation, these windows become first and second floor windows.

THE NORTH ELEVATION

The west bay of the north elevation of the stone house holds a rectangular, ground floor entrance, surmounted by a flat stone lintel and a first floor window, similar to those already described.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The central and east bays of the north wall hold the shed roofed, frame addition. The north wall of this addition holds a first floor and attic window, similar to those described, which become on this elevation a second and third floor window.

The interior was totally renovated under Mr. Levering and his associates, maintaining the central staircase, but totally face lifting the interior walls, floors and ceiling of the building for use as an art studio, with the front rooms of the old stone house serving as exhibition space.

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 Circa 1820

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Eye of the Camel is a significant building for Howard County and the State of Maryland, historically through its associations with Oakland Manor and architecturally as a fine example of nineteenth century, Howard County, vernacular stone architecture.

Historically, it is associated with Oakland Manor, residence of Luther Martin, Attorney General of Maryland, and later of Robert Oliver, the English hunter, who built Oliver's Carriage House, now used by the Kittamaquindi Community for their church.

The manor is located just south of The Eye of the Camel and may once have been connected to it in some way by a wide stone passage, now excavated on the north side of Oakland Manor.

The following history, taken from The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard County, Maryland, was written by J. D. Warfield.

From here, Colonel Charles Sterrett Ridgely commanded his troopers as the bodyguard of General Lafayette, in 1825. Here was born Lieutenant Randolph Ridgely, a hero of the Mexican War.

From here George R. Gaither drove his four iron-grays to St. John's Church each Sunday. From here Colonel George R. Gaither organized his Howard Dragoons, successors to Colonel Charles Carroll's Dragoons, of earlier days. Colonel Carroll's reviews of Gaither's Troopers ended in a royal treat of Southdown mutton and its attendants. All this was after Howard had risen to the dignity of her county rights and before war had come to check her proud career.

The sixty young men of Gaither's Troopers, all relations and friends, with a future that seemed bright, soon were ordered to take up arms in defense of the State. They

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

obeyed; with their Captain they crossed over the river, some to return not, some to go elsewhere, but few to remain. The Captain himself has passed on before.

This building was probably used to house a member of the household or to lodge a manager or overseer for the Manor.

Architecturally, the building is representative of vernacular stone architecture in Howard County, built into a steep slope of land so that the ground floor on the south elevation becomes a first floor on the north elevation.

Sometime in the mid-nineteenth century the central intersecting gable on the south facade may have been added, as its stone has been covered by cement or stucco, suggesting this may be constructed of frame beneath.

Excellent stonework is exemplified by the building's stone quoining, the projecting flat stone sills underlining windows, and the flat stone lintels over door and window frames.

This stone building, in conjunction with Oakland Manor, Oliver's Carriage House, the three stone buildings on neighboring Hyla Brook Road, as well as the three stone and frame houses along the Old Columbia Pike, just south of Route 175, were all situated on and a part of Oakland Manor and Oakland Mills and should be considered together for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Sites, as those visible expressions of a once grand manor and industrial mill (located beneath Route 29 at its intersection with Route 175).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Howard County Land Records
Holland, Celia, Landmarks of Howard County, Maryland 1976
Stein, C.F. Origin and History of Howard County, Maryland, Baltimore, 1972.
Warfield, J.D. Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland, Baltimore, 1973.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber _____ Folio _____

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

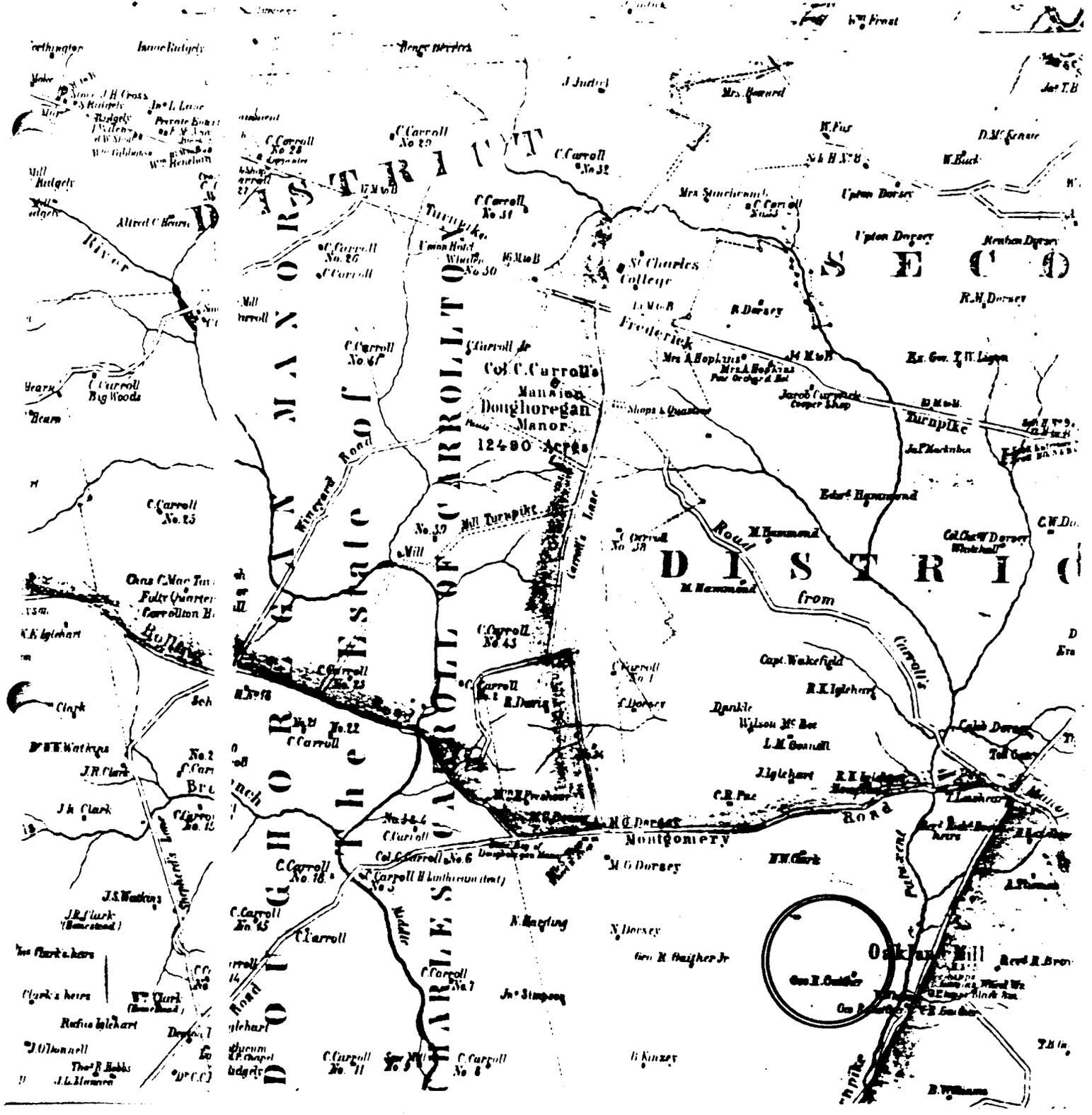
STATE

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.

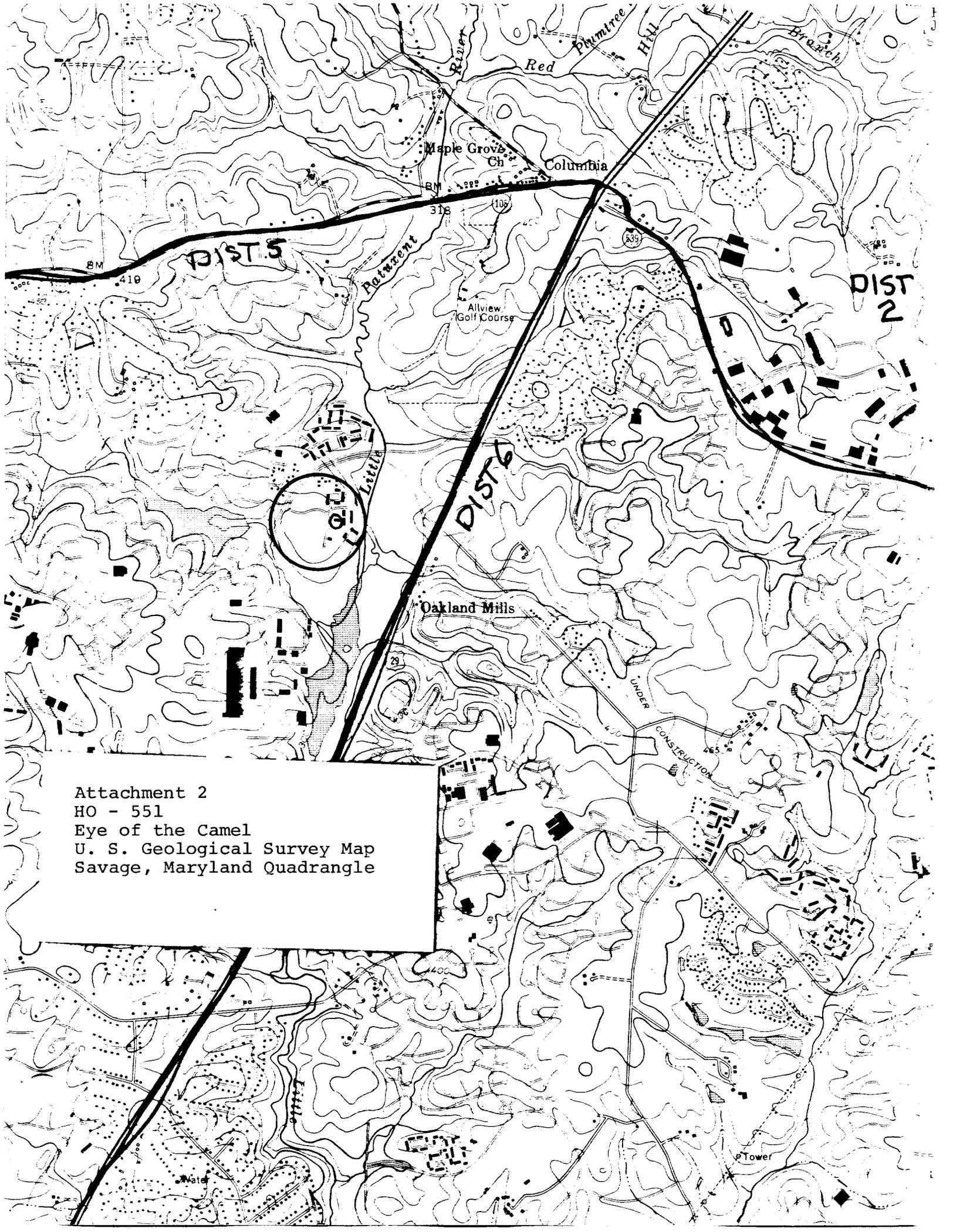
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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



Attachment 4
 HO-551
 Eye of the Camel
 Martenet Map of 1860





Attachment 2
HO - 551
Eye of the Camel
U. S. Geological Survey Map
Savage, Maryland Quadrangle



HO-551

Eye of the Camel

Photographer: Cleora Thompson

April 1980



HO-551

Eye of the Camel

Cleora Thompson

April 1980



HO-551

Eye of the Camel

Cleora Thompson

April 1980



Name: HO-551
The Eye of the Camel
Location: 9879 Vantage Point Road
Columbia, Maryland 21044
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.
Date of photograph: April, 1980
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust
View: Southeast
Photographer looking: Northwest
Photograph number: 1 of 1