

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HO-636

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Robinson House

2. Location

street & number 6692 Cedar Lane not for publication

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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 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 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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mrs. James Robinson

street & number 6692 Cedar Lane telephone no.:

city, town Columbia state and zip code Maryland 21150

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber

street & number folio

city, town Ellicott City state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. HO-636

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Robinson House is very modest mid to late nineteenth century frame dwelling located west of Cedar Lane and north of Md 32 in Howard County. Surrounded by heavy woods and just uphill from the Middle Branch of the Patuxent River, the 22 acre property encompasses much of the Simpsonville Mill Site.

What was once a complex of mill buildings, stores, shops, etc. is now largely archeological in nature, with few extant buildings apart from the ruins of the stone mill, outlying dwellings housing the mill owners, store, and the dwelling currently owned by Mrs. Robinson. It may be associated with an R.C. Nicholson in the 1860's who may be the Richard Nicholson listed in the 1850 Manufacturing Census as a blacksmith in Howard County.

The structure is built into a rise on the north, thus revealing the stone foundation on the south above grade. The principle facade of the building, three bays wide, is oriented to the east and located close to the original alignment of Cedar Lane as it turned to the south to cross the Middle Branch of the Patuxent. The mill ruins are located about one hundred feet east of the house. The dwelling is covered with cedar shakes. A full width, one-story open porch spans the entire 30 foot width of the structure, with the south bay enclosed. An ell extends from the north and middle bays of the rear, or west elevation of the structure, with a small, one-story high pantry built on stone pylons located in the angle between the main block and the ell. The main block has two rooms down and two rooms upstairs. On the main level, the north and south rooms are 13 foot square and separated by a 4 foot wide center stairway, reached via the entry centered on the east bay. The ell is 22 feet wide on the west elevation and is internally divided by means of a partition into an entrance foyer on the north and kitchen on the south, which accesses the pantry in the southwest junction of the main block and the ell. The owner reports extensive renovation of the interior, such as removal of fireplaces and replacement of stairway, etc. A barn, shed and concrete block garage are located northwest of the dwelling. The frame structure appear to date to the early twentieth century.

8. Significance

Survey No. HO-636

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 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Ca. 1860 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This modest, frame nineteenth century dwelling is significant as a probable component of the Simpsonville Mill Historic District, and one of the few extant standing structures. It may be the structure identified as the R.C. Nicholson Residence in 1860. No long term residents of the area have identified the function of the structure, or any connection with the Mill. The Simpsonville Historic District remains as a surviving example of a late eighteenth through early twentieth-century rural village that contains a well-preserved example of a mill seat including a standing mill structure and other related features. The Simpsonville District was a small, rural manufacturing village with the milling industry as its principal focus. The District includes structures (residential, commercial, and industrial) and associated archeological deposits dating from at least 1768 to 1920. This rural village contains a collection of various structures/archeological deposits including the remains of or extant structures of a possible sawmill, a possible wheelwright's shop, residences. Surrounding the site on the opposite side of Cedar Lane and Route 32 are the locations of standing historic buildings including the Millers House, two large mansions associated with the Owings family and Owings Family Cemetery.

Generally most small communities grew around a central location that served a specific purpose. In the case of Simpsonville, the central focus was the mill, which provided local farmers an opportunity to grind their wheat for both the local market and major commercial centers such as Ellicott City and Baltimore. As a centralized location for this activity, roads and bridges were constructed to facilitate transport to and from the Mill. The evolution of this mill-based community occurred from at least 1768 to 1920. Features identified at the site appear to reflect the evolution of the rural village, which may be associated with the related growth of the surrounding mill community.

See Attachment

Obviously as the milling industry burgeoned in the late 1700s (after the Ellicott Brothers produced a market for the grain trade) many custom mills shifted from serving a primarily local clientele (local farmers) to rural centers, like Simpsonville, which maintained economic ties with larger merchant mills (such as Ellicott Mills and Owings Mills). Those mills were incorporated into the regional, inter-regional, and international market through the industrial port of Baltimore. Locally, the Simpsonville Site is the only surviving, intact example of a mill-base village community in Howard County. Although other mill sites are scattered throughout the area (e.g., the Roxbury Mill, Historic District of Ellicott City, and Savage Mill), Simpsonville remains the only example of a small, historic mill community that continues to preserve important archaeological, geographic, and architectural components. Moreover, the fact that the Simpsonville Site is affiliated with the founding families of Howard county (e.g., Warfield, Owings, and Simpsons) further attests to its past and present importance to the surrounding community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HO-636

Interviews with Elizabeth Ware, Richard Inglehardt, Mrs. Robinson
Phase II Archeological Report of Md. 32, 1990, prepared by G.A.I.
Consultants for S.H.A.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rita Suffness, Leader, Cultural Resources Group

organization Maryland State Hwy. Administration date 3/12/93

street & number 707 N. Calvert Street telephone

city or town Baltimore state Maryland 21202

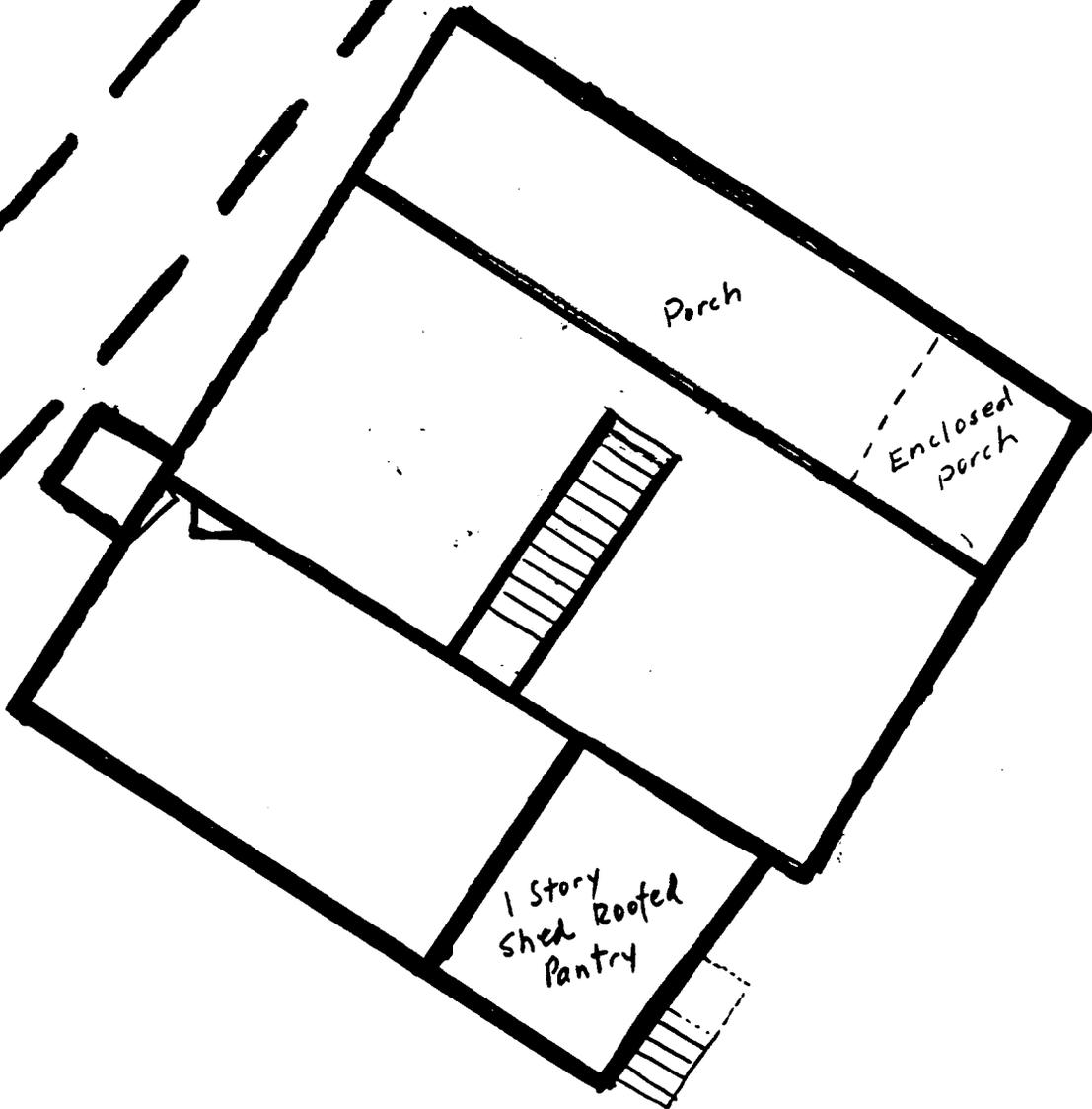
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

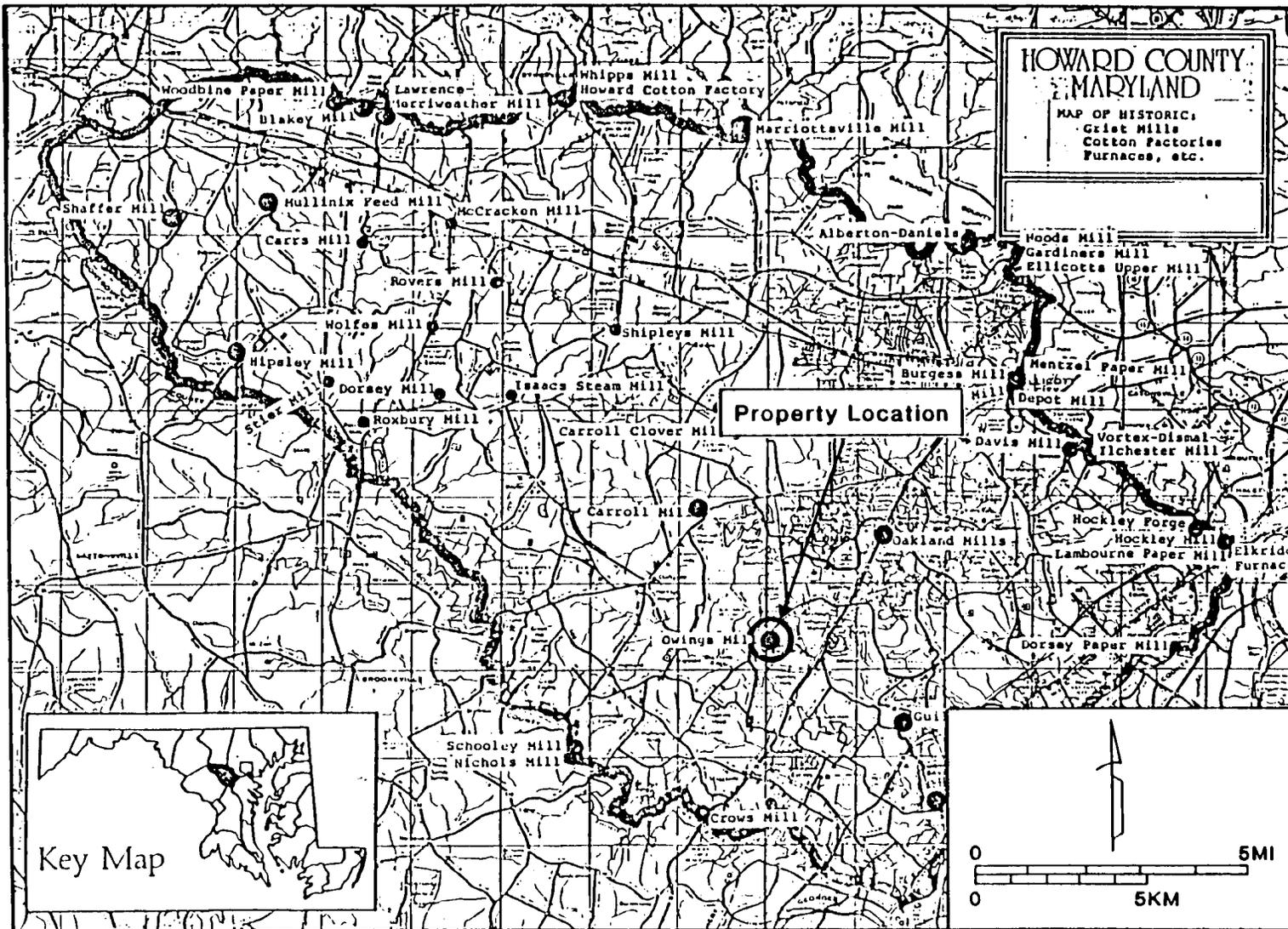
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

HO-636

Attachment 2 - Plan of Dwelling
Sketch Map, Main Level
Robinson House



RMS 3-13-93
NOT TO SCALE

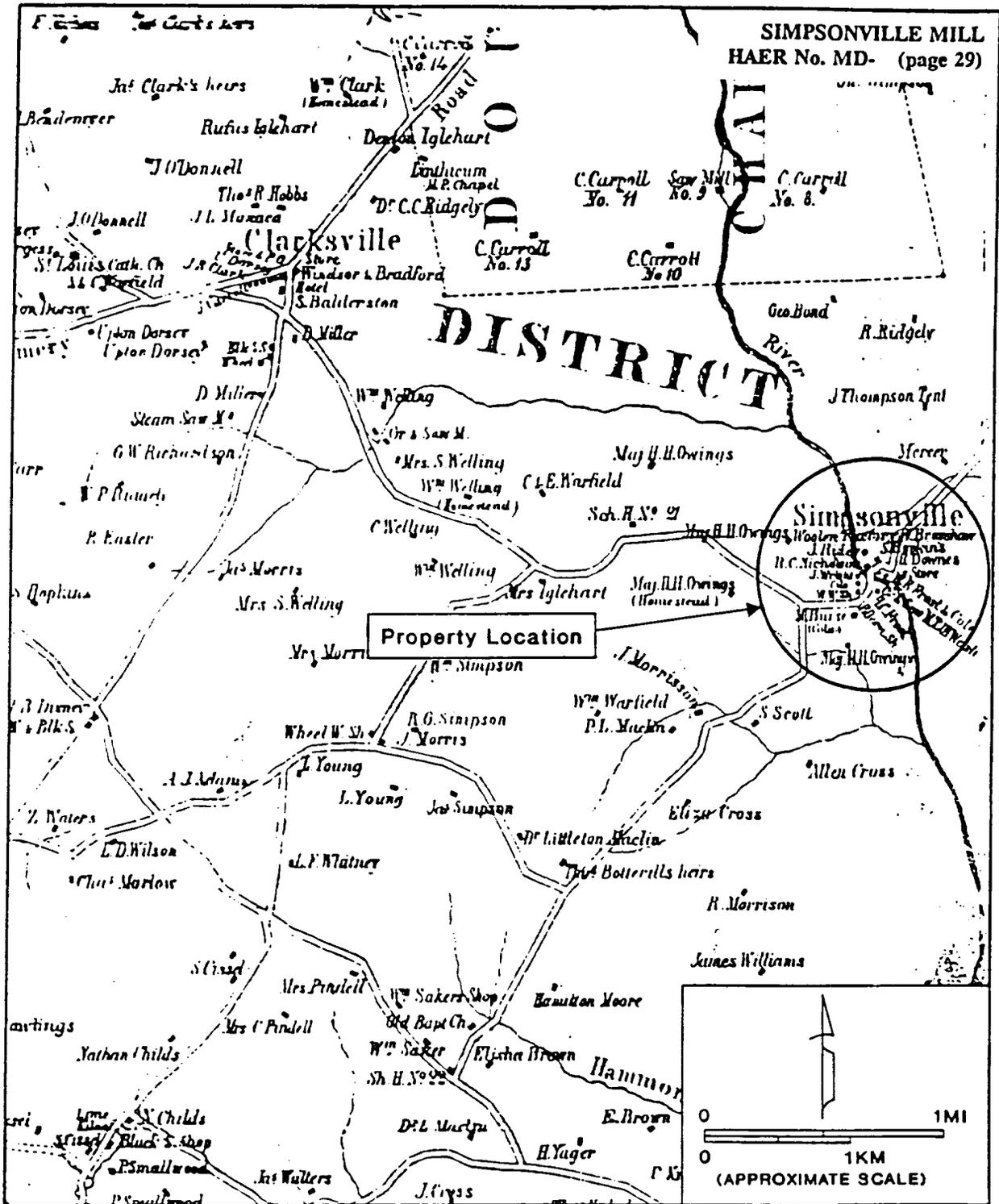


Howard County Maryland, Map of Historic:
 Grist Mills, Cotton Factories,
 Furnaces, etc. (McGrain 1985)

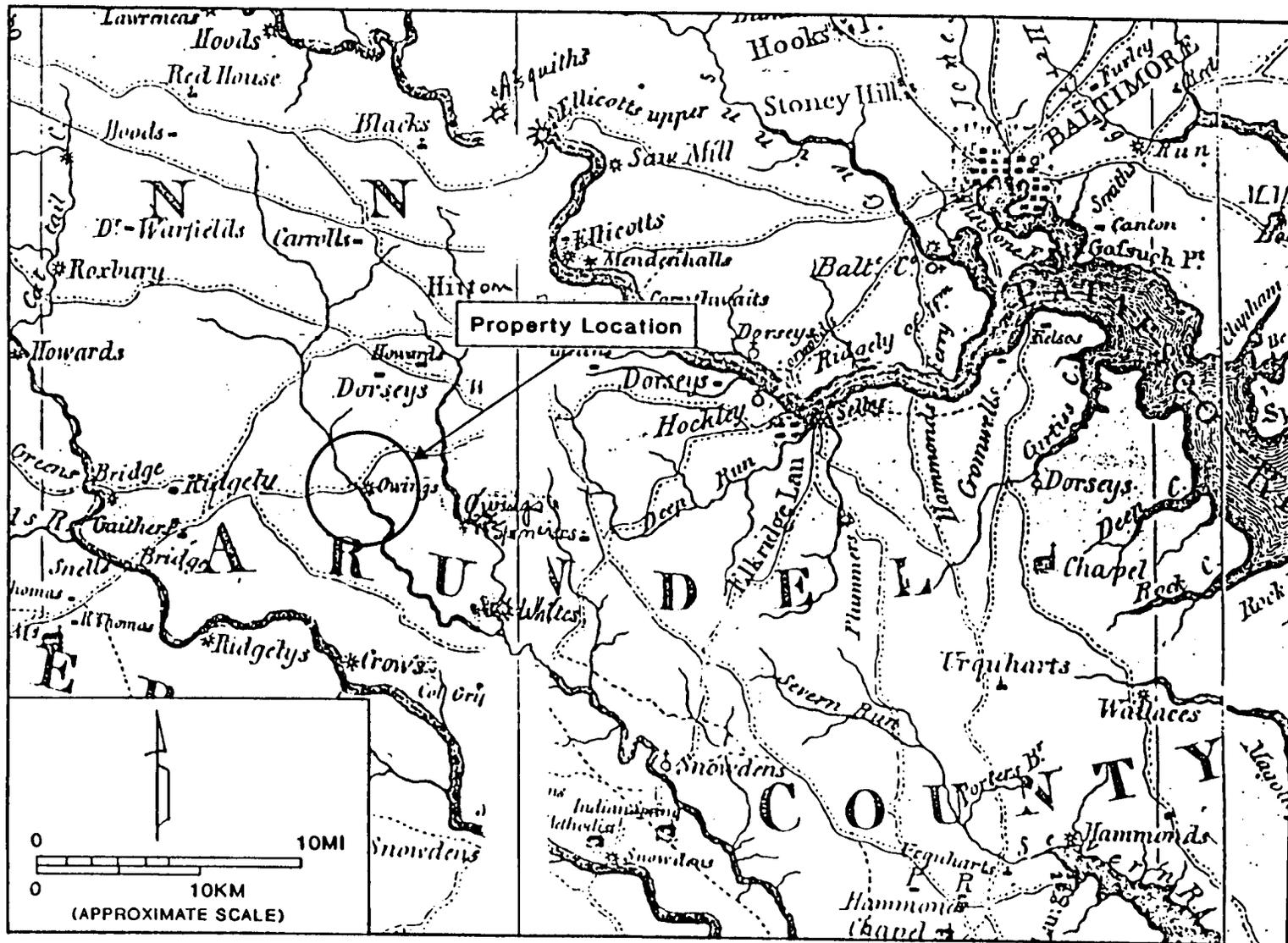
SIMPSONVILLE MILL
 HAER No. MD. (page 31)

Attachment 3 -
 Map of Historic Grist Mills
 Robinson House

HO-636



Detail, Martenet's Map of Howard County,
Maryland (Schofield 1860)

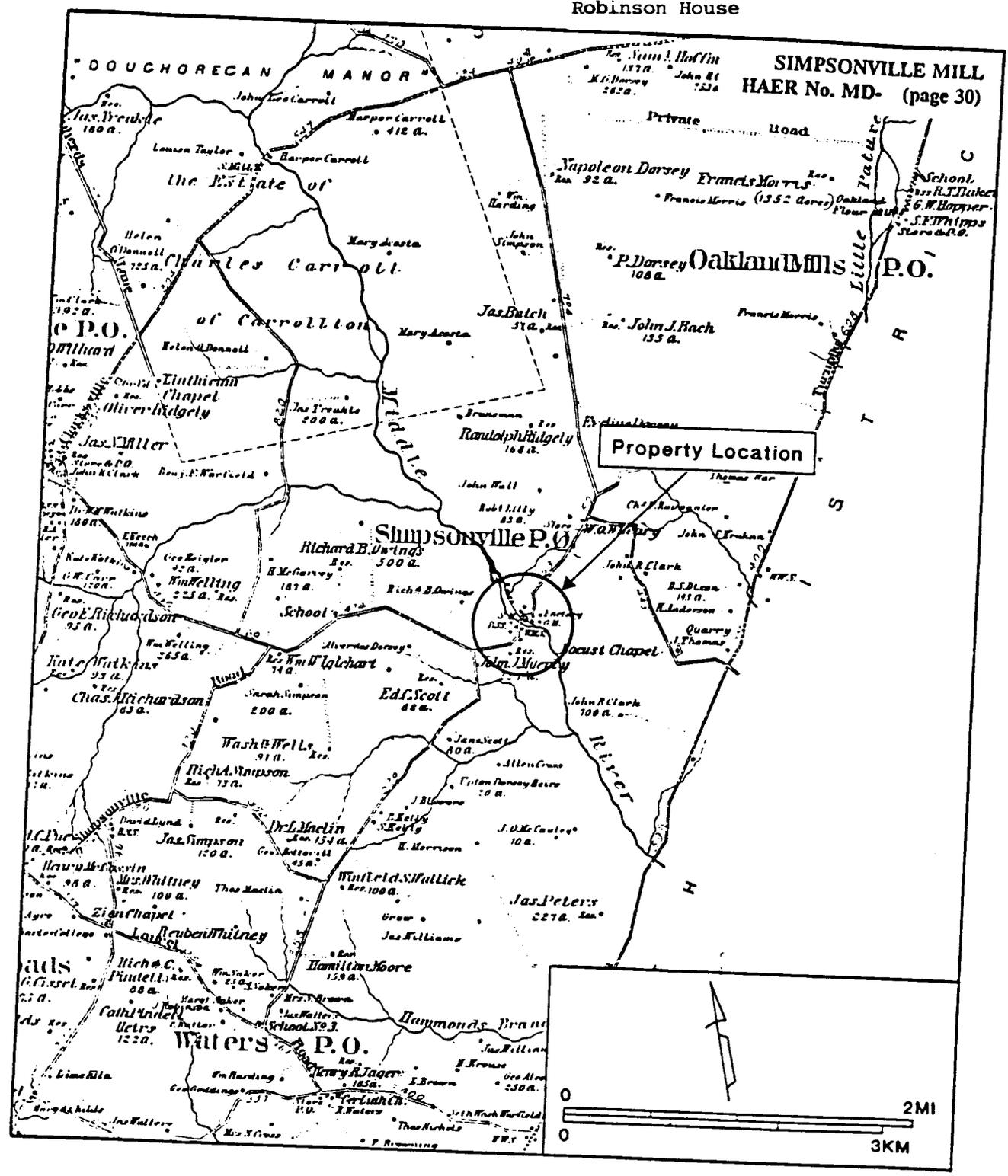


Detail, A Map of the State of Maryland
 (Griffith 1795, adapted by John McGrain)

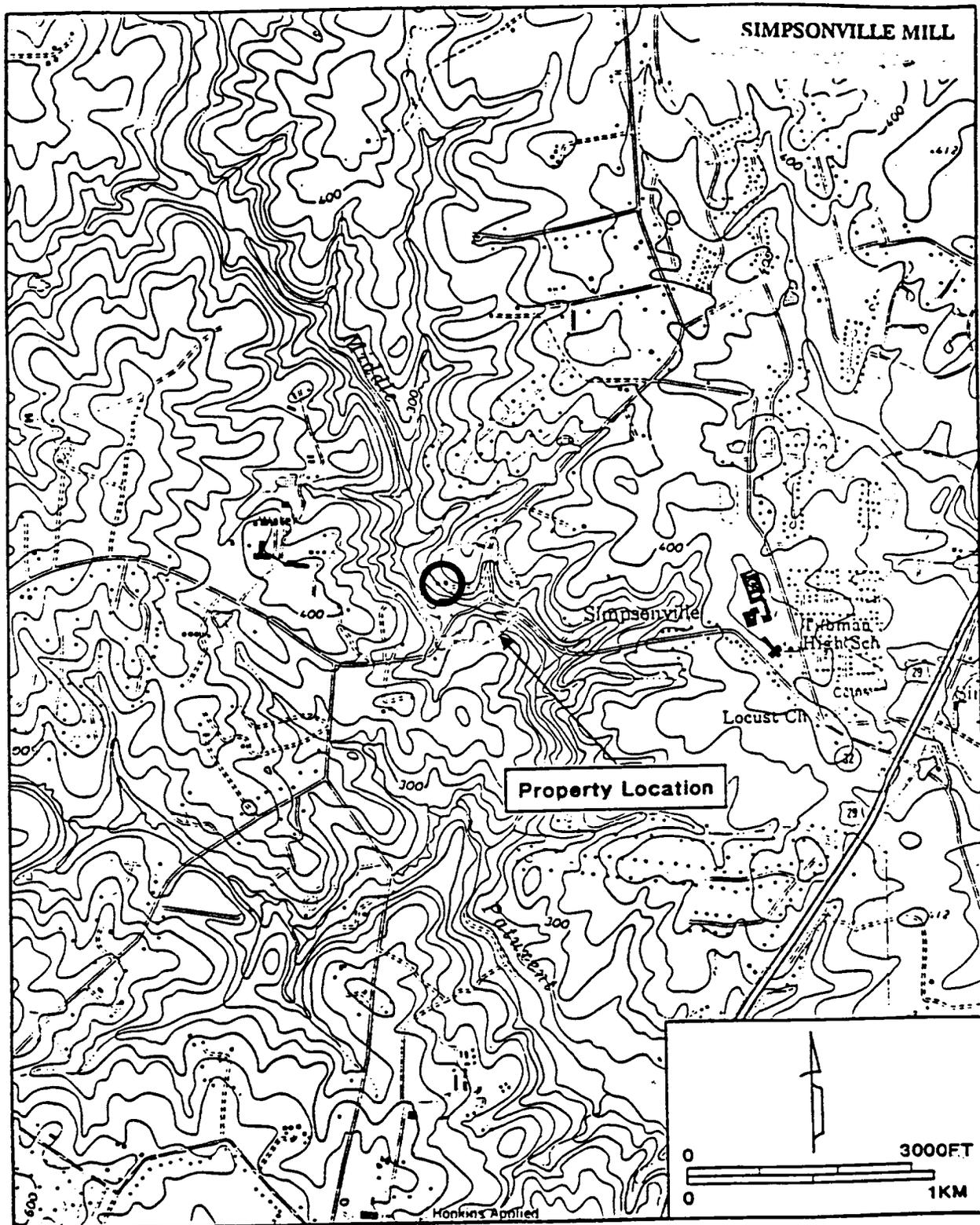
SIMPSONVILLE MILL
 HAER No. MD. (page 28)

Attachment 5
 Map
 Robinson House

Map
Robinson House



Detail, Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Baltimore, Including Howard County, Maryland (Hopkins 1878)



Property Location
USGS 7.5 Minute Series
Clarksville and Savage, MD Quadrangles
Photorevised 1979 and 1974



Ho-636

Robinson House

6692 Cedar Lane

Columbia, Md.

East or ~~A~~ principle elevation



H0-636

Robinson House

6692 Cedar Lane

Columbia, Md.

East or Principle elevation



Ho - 636

Robinson House

6692 Cedar Lane

Columbia, Md.

West elevation



Ho-636

Robinson House

6692 Cedar Lane

Columbia, Md.

N.E. corner



HO-636

Robinson House

6692 Cedar Lane

Columbia, Md.

N.W. corner



HO-636

Robinson House

6692 Cedar Lane

Columbia, Md.

S.E. Corner



HO-634

Robinson House

6692 Cedar Lane

Columbia, Md.

S.W. corner



HO-636

Robinson House

6692 Cedar Lane

Columbia, Md.

South elevation



HO-636

Robinson House

6692 cedar Lane, Columbia, Md.

Interior North Room

S.W. corner



HO-634
Robinson House
6692 Cedarlane
Columbia, Md

Interior North Room
N.W. corner



Ho-634

Robinson House

6692 Cedar Lane

Columbia, Md.

Interior South Room

South wall



Ho-636

Robinson House

6692 Cedar Lane

Columbia, Md.

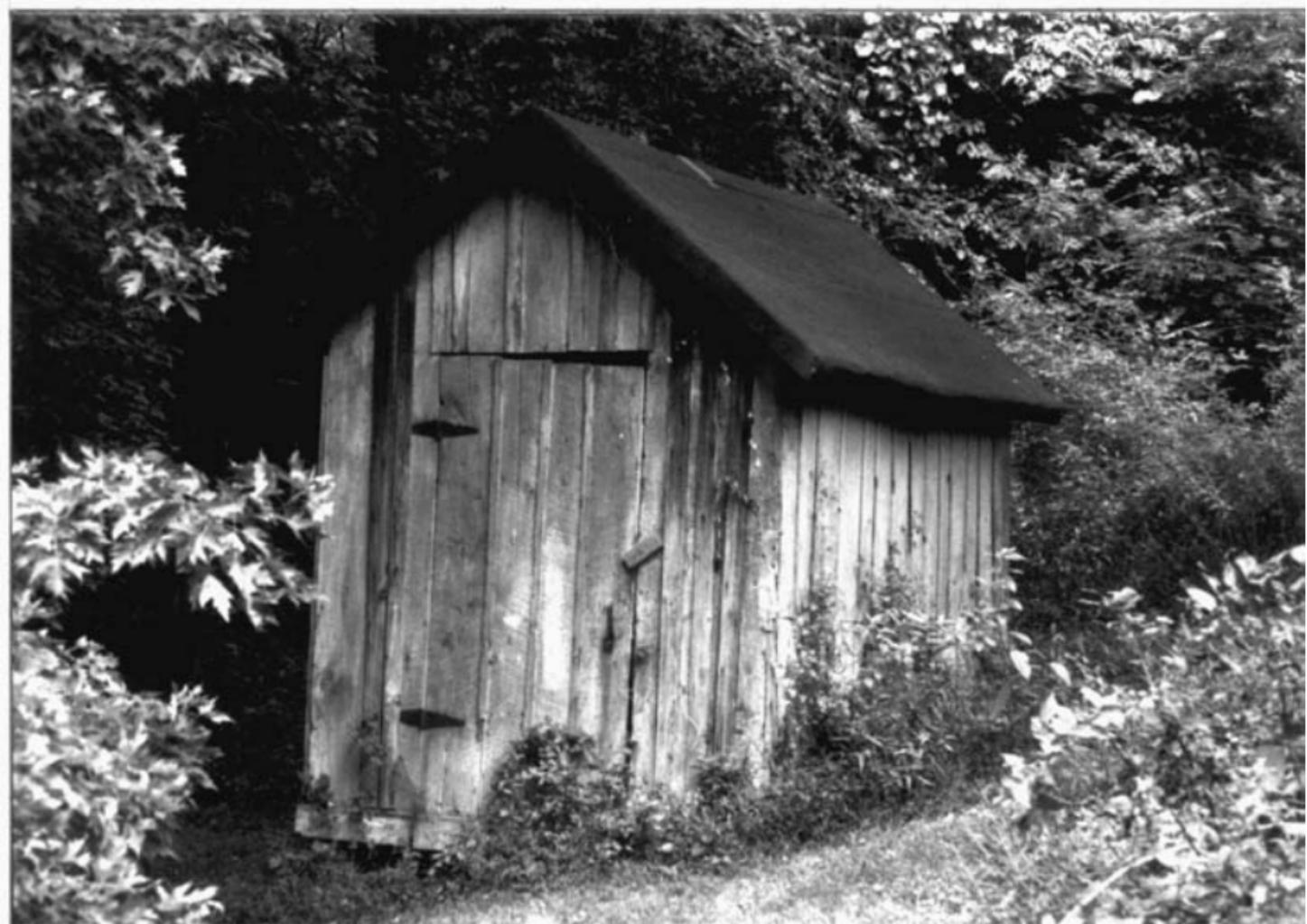
Interior, Stair



40-636

Robinson House
6692 Cedar Lane
Columbia, Md.

Interior, South Room
S.W. corner



Ho-636

Robinson House

6692 Cedar Lane

Columbia, Md.

Shed, N.E. corner



Ho-636

Robinson House

6692 Cedar Lane

Columbia, Md.

Barn, North corner



HO-636

Robinson House

6692 Cedar Lane

Columbia, Md.

Barr, N.E. Elevation



HO-636

Robinson House

6692 Cedar Lane

Columbia, Md.

Barn, S.W. side
detail