

H0-142
Old St. John's Rectory
Ellicott City
Private

1819-1820

Old St. John's Rectory served as the home for the rectors of historic St. John's Episcopal Church from 1886 to circa 1949, when the new rectory was built in closer proximity to and southeast of St. John's 1860 Romanesque church designed by Nathan Starkweather.

This two and a half story gabled roof stone rectory, though only three bays wide and three bays deep is built on a mammoth scale and provides for spacious interior rooms and an outstanding downstairs federal hallway whose curved northeast corner opens into the living and dining rooms with their very unique curved doorways.

Frame additions lie on its north wall which in no way diminish or impair the integrity of this fine stone building.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME					
COMMON: St. John's Rectory					
AND/OR HISTORIC: Rebecca's Lot					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: 3511 St. Johns Lane (Now on West Gate Drive)					
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City					
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Howard		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: Traband Millard, Jr.					
STREET AND NUMBER: 3511 St. Johns Lane					
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City			STATE: Maryland		
				21043	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Hall of Records					
STREET AND NUMBER: Howard County Courthouse					
CITY OR TOWN: Ellicott City			STATE: Maryland		
				21043	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Tax Map 24, p.116					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory					
DATE OF SURVEY: 1977 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust					
STREET AND NUMBER: 21 State Circle					
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis			STATE: Maryland		
				21401	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The old St. John's Rectory, built between 1819-1820 by W. Radcliff is a three bay wide, three bay deep, two and a half story (with full basement) gabled roof (running east-west) stone structure painted white with wide brick chimney inset into the south side of its east wall.</p> <p>The south elevation holds the west bay rectangular entrance door which is flanked by four side lites and surmounted by a four lite transom and flat stone lintel. Thirteen steps lead to the hipped roof, one story high open porch which runs along this elevation and is supported by five doric columns and two 3/4 doric columns. Two first floor rectangular double hung windows lie east of the entrance holding six-over-six lites and decorated with projecting stone sills, flat stone lintels, and charcoal grey shutters. Three similar second floor and basement windows vertically aligned and proportionally scaled lie above and below. A single gabled roof dormer window is centered into the roof flanked by fluted pilasters and surmounted by a broken pediment. Its west wall holds a single rectangular double hung basement window holding eight-over-eight lites protected by a decorative wrought iron grill, in its north bay.</p> <p>First and second floor windows rest in the north and central bays of this wall, vertically aligned and proportionally scaled and similar to the south windows. Two rectangular double hung attic windows holding six-over-six lites rest in the east and west walls.</p> <p>In addition, the east wall holds two full basement windows, similar to those on the west wall, three first floor windows, all located on the north side of the east wall and a single second floor window on the north side of the east wall.</p> <p>A one bay wide, one bay deep two story high (with full stone basement) gabled roof (running east-west) frame addition springs from the west side of the north wall of the original stone house.</p> <p>A one bay wide, one bay deep two story high flat roofed frame addition on the east side of the north wall had at one time a second floor open porch which has since been enclosed and is used as a utility room. The stairs and first floor of this side of the house is very early.</p> <p>A one story high shed roofed frame two car garage lies along the north elevation of these two additions.</p> <p>Wide brick chimneys lie on the east and west sides of the north wall. Two brick patios lie on the east side of the house connected by a lovely brick walk which runs along the perimeter of the east and south sides of the house. A pool and bath house lie further east of the house which is surrounded by lovely trees, shrubs and lawn. Sheep graze in an adjoining pasture northeast of the house. All is in exceptionally fine order.</p> <p>The interior roof rafters are held together with huge wooden pegs. One is dated in black ink, Radcliff, 1819-1820, evidently the name of the builder.</p> <p>The interior of the house features original mantles, staircase, bannister and knevel posts as well as random width pine floors and cross paneled doors.</p> <p>The original kitchen was located in the basement which is now a large recreation room.</p> <p>Unusual original curved living room and dining room doors lead from a semi circular curve on the northeast side of the first floor entrance hall.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1819-1820 Radcliff

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following is an extract of a deed from John W. Dorsey & wife & Comfort W. Dorsey to the vestry of St. Johns, 8 July 1886, 51-99 of Howard County Land Records, sanctioned by an Act of 1890 Chapter 49, folio 40, but erroneously indexed as Chapter 493, page 540:

Description of a lot of land now surveyed and laid out from the land of John W. Dorsey, adjoining the land of St. John's Parsonage lot to enlarge the same. Beginning at a point in the County Road leading from the Baltimore and Frederick Turnpike Road to the Old Frederick Road, in the 8th line of the deed from Edward W. Dorsey and wife to John T.W. Dorsey bearing date April 5th, 1834, and recorded in Liber W. T.G. No. 18, folio 537 and one of the land records for Anne Arundel County, at the distance of 14 ⁶⁰/₁₀₀ perches from the beginning of the said 8th line and running and binding thereon allowing for retrograde variation of the Magnetic Needle, South 44½ degrees East 34 ⁶⁰/₁₀₀ perches to a stone now planted thence North 58½ degrees East. 3 ⁷⁵/₁₀₀ perches to a stone now planted at the root of a small Black Oak tree now marked with 3 notches. Then parallel with the first line, North 44½ degrees West 36 ⁶⁴/₁₀₀ perches to the center of the said County road, thence binding on the Center of the said road South 24½ degrees West 3 ⁸⁰/₁₀₀ perches to the place of the Beginning containing 129 square perches of land, more or less.

June 29/ 1886

W.J. Robinson

Reuben M. Dorsey & wf
Achsah R. Deed to
to
The Vestry of St. John's
Church, upper end of
Queen Caroline Parish

Liber W.W.W. No. 29 fo. 441
27 May 1850 - the date
& date fact Acknowledged before
Chief Judge Thos. B. Dorsey -
& recorded 2 July 1861 - Delivered
to J. Mackubin 6 Apr 1863
cons. \$2500.00/100

All that piece or parcel of land situated lying and being in Howard District of Anne Arundel County, being part of a tract of land called "Rebecca's Lot: and contained within the following metes, bounds, courses and distances, to wit: Beginning for the same in the centre of the Frederick Turnpike road at the end of the second course of the Lot of said land laid off for Col. Charles W. Dorsey marked upon the plat at the letter A and running thence with and bounding on said Lot the four following courses and distances, to wit: N. 10° W. 19½ W.; N. 70° W. 5½ W. to a main road, still bounding on said lot and running with said road N. 30° 30' E. 21 W.; N. 28° E. 18½ W. to Mr. John W. Dorsey's land,

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Significance Statement Cont.

St. Johns
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thence running with and bounding on said Dorsey's land S. 47⁰ East 83½ West to the aforementioned Turnpike road, thence running with and bounding on the centre of said road S. 75⁰ West 32½ West, thence still running with and bounding on the centre of said road to the place of beginning containing and now laid out for 15 acres of land, more or less."

"To have and to hold the same with the buildings and improvements, privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining to the said the Vestry of St. John's Church in the upper end of Queen Caroline Parish in Anne Arundel County and their successors in fee simple as a Glebe or parsonage for said Church and to and for no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever. Provided always and its is the true intent and meaning of these presents and of the parties thereto, that the said Vestry shall not on any occasion or at any time demise lease or rent the said premises hereby granted or conveyed or meant, metnioned or intended so to be, to any tenant, lessee, occupant or incumbent for a greater length of time than one year at any one time; such leases or demises from year to year to be continued or renewed to any lessee, occupant or incumbent at the will and pleasure of the said Vestry or a majority thereof, and provided also, and it is the true intent and meaning of these presents and of the parties thereto, that no lessee, occupant or incumbent of said land and premises hereby conveyed, shall after the expiration of his year hold, possess or continue to occupy the same without or against the consent of the said Vestry or a majority thereof, and in the event of his doing so, it shall be lawful for the said Vestry by its agent or servants to re-enter into and possess the same, or at its election to recover the possession thereof in a summary way or by an action of ejectment.

This deed dates the building to 1886 but there is evidence of earlier construction. The builder, a man named Radcliff signed his name to one of the roof rafters with the date 1819-1820. Mrs. Traband discovered this when her husband was installing a ventilator in the roof. The rafters are held together with hugh wooden pegs and as Mrs. Traband came up to confer with Dr. Traband she noticed one of them had a beautifully scrolled signature, Rafcliff, in black ink with the date 1819-1820. Some sixty to seventy years later it was sold to the church to provide the rector a home for himself and his family. When Dr. and Mrs. Traband bought the rectory the deed stipulated that divine services would be held daily.

The significance of St. John's Rectory does not lie solely in the fact that it is a fine, well-constructed stone house over one hundred and fifty years old. Its worth lies in the fact that it served as a home for those men who served St. John's Episcopal Church which is one of the most historic and certainly one of the most beautiful churches in the United States as well as Howard County. Its beauty lies not only in its architecture, which is of outstanding value (St. John's was designed by Nathan Starkweather noted Virginian architect in the 1860's) but in the setting within which it is placed. Any one driving up Frederick Road in the spring comes across a truly breathtaking sight - blossoming fruit trees line the property along Frederick Road while the church sits far back and is approached by a drive lined with mature trees.

Significance Statement Cont.
St. John's Rectory
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The whole campus reflects a composure and serenity which is not often found in our twentieth century and which affords the traveler thirsting for such peace a heavy draught which will offer drink to his soul as well as his thirsty eyes so used to the more garish forms of the twentieth century. It is with reluctance that visitors leave St. John's. So much has gone before, so much is yet to come.

St. John's present rectory is a twentieth century building which is constructed of stone which matches the church and lies northwest of it. West of the present rectory lies a large Sunday School wing which is also used to house a fine Christian pre-school which is one of the finest in Howard County and which was begun by the present rector, The Reverend E. Albert Rich.

Old St. John's Rectory, through its association with historic St. John's Church, a chapel of ease of Queen Caroline parish is significant both architecturally and historically. A Howard County stone house with fine proportions, it is constructed on a grand scale and located on a fine tract of land which boasts mature trees, fine lawn and shrubbery. The present owners, Dr. & Mrs. Traband have worked intelligently and lovingly on the old home to fit their own requirements and to enhance the strengths of the building and its composition. For these reasons St. John's Rectory should be placed on the National Register as well as included into the State's Critical Areas Program, the County General Plan and any future local landmark legislation.

Note: Old St. John's Rectory was the second rectory belonging to historic St. John's Church. In the rector's annual report in 1841, Hugh T. Harrison reported "the erection of a substantial and convenient parsonage."

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mrs. Millard Traband, Jr. at her residence, the former rectory or glebe of St. John's Episcopal Church, 3511 St. Johns Lane on April 18, 1977.

Hewett, Elva Trueblood. A Chapel of Ease: St. John's Episcopal Church. Ellicott City, 1974

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 24, p. 116

285-161, 10 acres

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET AND NUMBER:

3450 Courthouse Drive

CITY OR TOWN:

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

21043

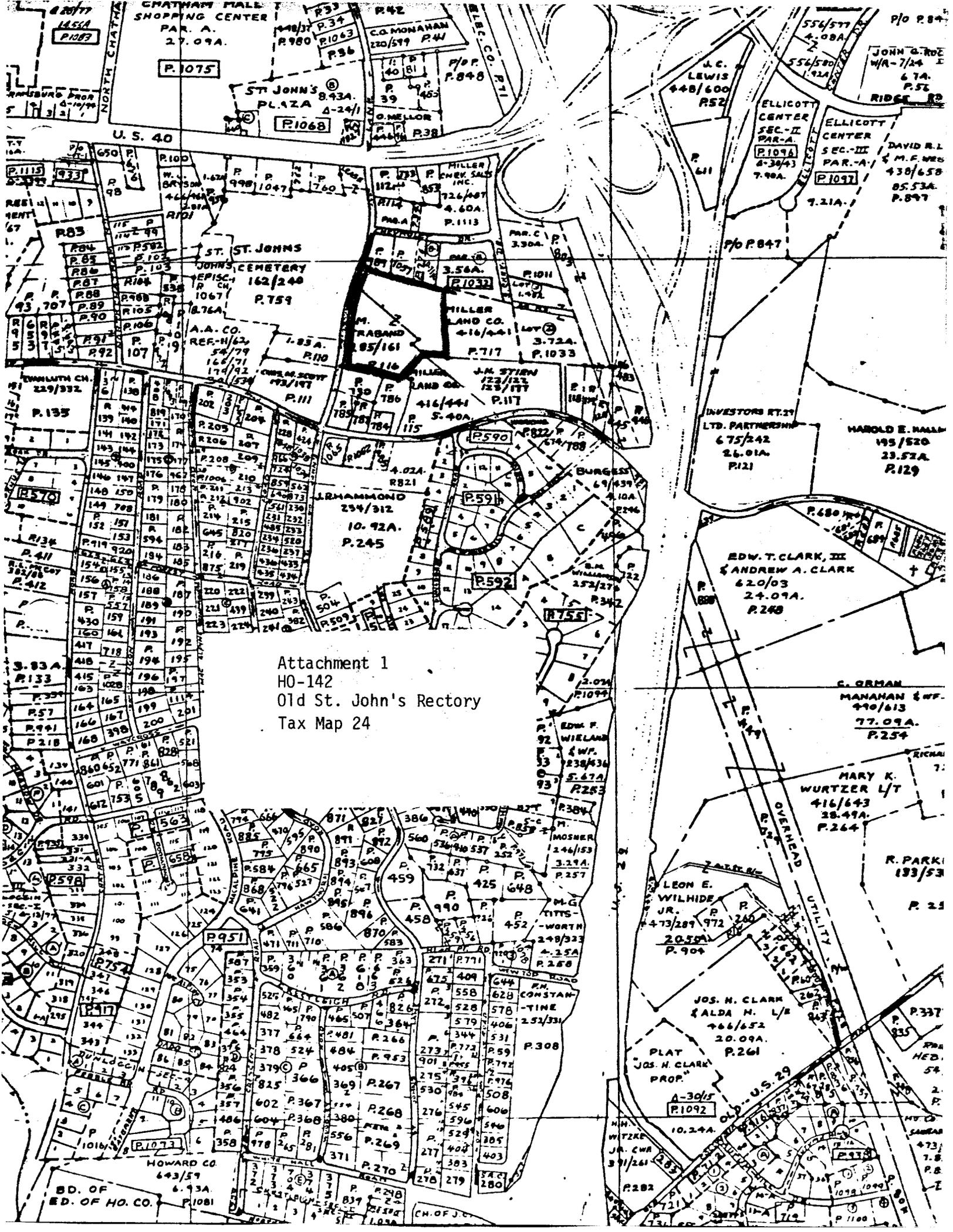
12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

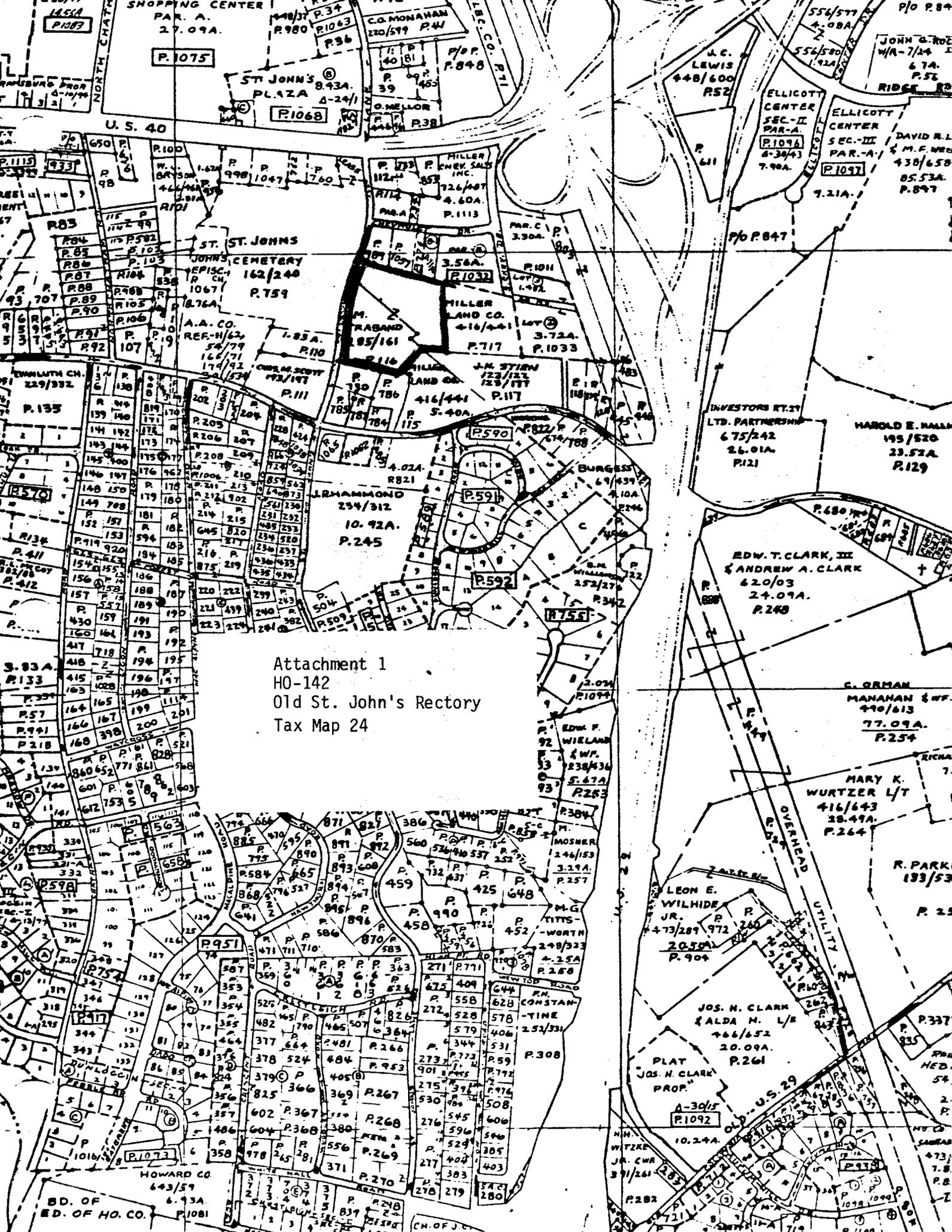
Significance of this property is:

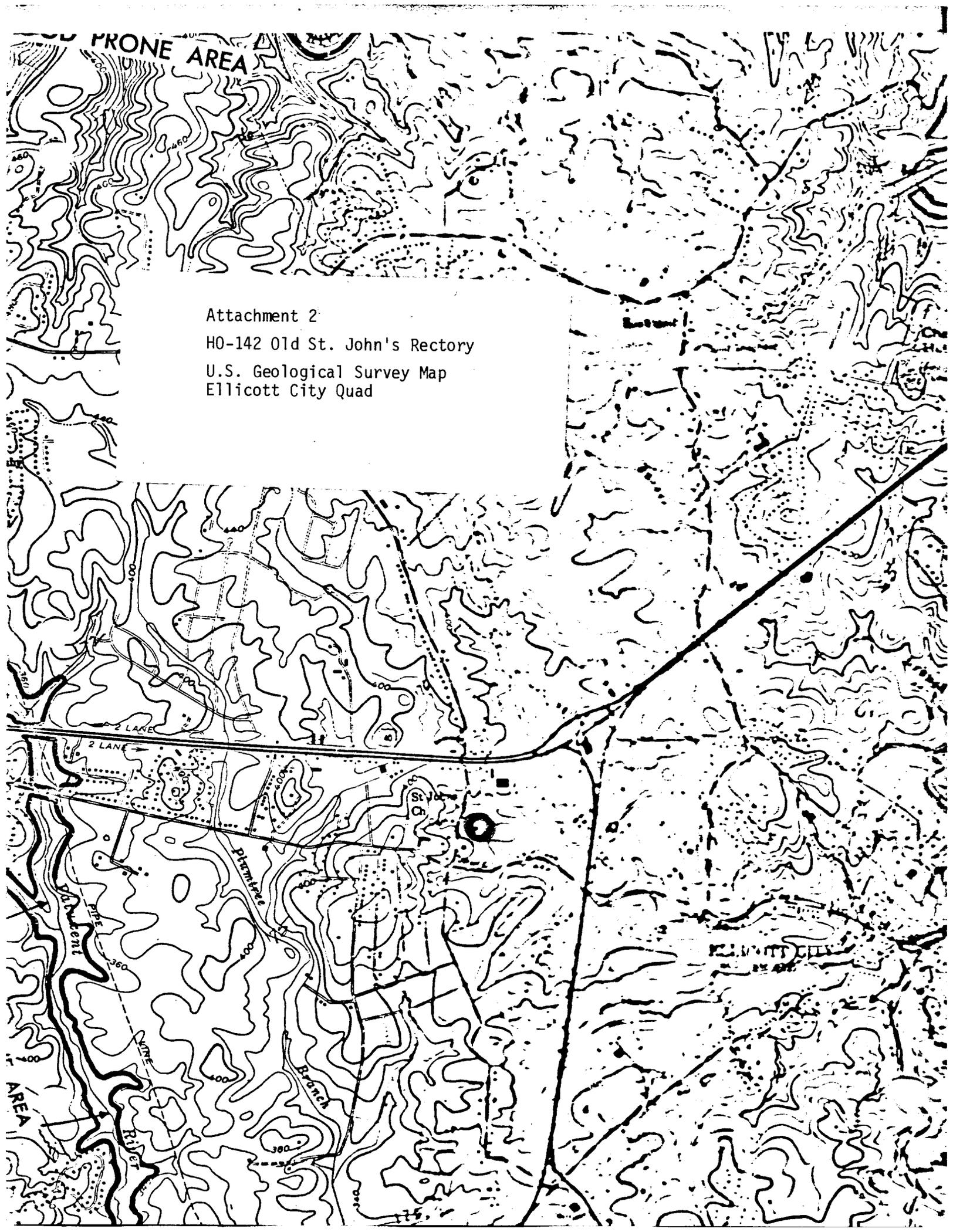
National State Local

Signature



Attachment 1
HO-142
Old St. John's Rectory
Tax Map 24





Attachment 2
HO-142 Old St. John's Rectory
U.S. Geological Survey Map
Ellicott City Quad



Ho. 142

568A

Traband House

JSZ 6/72



CLEGG AND THOMPSON
PLANNING CONSULTANT
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

H0-142
TRABAND HOUSE
OLD ST. JOHN'S RECTORY
(WEST ELEVATION)