

HO - 393  
Morning Choice  
Elkridge  
Private

1941

Morning Choice faces north on the west side of Belmont Woods Road, one mile north of its intersection with Elibank Road. It is a five bay wide, two room deep, one and a half story high, slate gabled roof (running east-west) brick (laid in English garden wall brick bond) house, resting on a cinder block foundation, with wide brick chimneys inset into its east and west walls, and three north and south jerkin roofed dormer windows, holding six-over-nine light, double-hung windows, and lower scaled flanking, east and west wings. Fenestration for the entire building is proportionally scaled. All windows are rectangular and almost all double-hung, featuring twelve-over-twelve lights in the first floor's mid section, with six-over-nine lights in the three north and south jerkin roofed dormer windows. All windows are flanked by flat pilasters, surmounted by flat lintels, all of which is encased within a fine molding, surmounted by splayed brick flat arched lintels, underlined by flat wooden sills and decorated with shutters.

This outstanding Georgian building, designed by Bryden Hyde of Baltimore on land once a part of Caleb Dorsey's Belmont, was constructed by Mary Howard Bruce Smith and her husband, the son of Senator Smith of New Jersey. The boxwood which grace the gardens and landscaping surrounding the house were transplanted from Mr. Smith's home in New Jersey.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Morning Choice

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 6560 Belmont Woods Road

CITY, TOWN

Elkridge

\_\_\_ 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 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 Mr. and Mrs. Burnet Chalmers Telephone #: 301-796-5347

STREET & NUMBER 6560 Belmont Woods Road

CITY, TOWN

Elkridge

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21227

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Tax Map 31, p. 244  
Hall of Records

Liber #: 372

Folio #: 67

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

HO - 393  
Relay Quad  
Dist 1

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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

Morning Choice faces north on the west side of Belmont Woods Road, one mile north of its intersection with Elibank Road. It is a five bay wide, two room deep, one and a half story high, slate gabled roof (running east-west - brick (laid in English garden wall brickbond) house, resting on a cinder block foundation, with wide brick chimney's inset into its east and west walls, and three north and south jerkin roofed dormer windows, holding six-over-nine light, double-hung windows. The building features a two bay wide, one room deep, one and a half story high, slate gambrel roof, with single jerkin roofed dormer, east wing and a three bay wide, one room deep, one story high, slate gabled roof west wing.

Fenestration for the building is proportionally scaled. All windows are rectangular. Most all are double-hung, holding twelve-over-twelve lights in the first floor's mid-section, with six-over-nine lights in the dormers above. All windows are flanked by flat pilasters, surmounted by flat lintels, all of which is encased in a molding, which is crowned by splayed brick, flat arched lintels, underlined by flat wooden sills, and decorated with shutters.

Three similar windows, holding nine-over-six lights rest in the west wing's north wall and another on the south side of its west wall.

Similar windows, holding six-over-six lights rest in the north, south and east walls of the east wing.

### THE NORTH ELEVATION OF THE CENTRAL SECTION

The main entrance is centered into the north elevation. It is a rectangular paneled entrance door, surmounted by a twelve light transom, all of which is flanked by flat pilasters, surmounted by a flat lintel incased in mitred molding. A wide brick landing is placed before the door, which features a large brass lock and key, characteristic of older colonial locks of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Two urns, holding flowers front the entrance.

### THE SOUTH ELEVATION OF THE CENTRAL SECTION

The south elevation of this section of the house faces a lovely lawn sloping down in a curvilinear outline with woods beyond, through which Rockburn Branch runs.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

The central and end bays of the first floor hold rectangular, double-hung windows, similar to those on the north elevation, and flank two nine light, rectangular, St. Andrew's cross paneled doors, which are similarly outlined by flanking flat pilasters and lintels and are surmounted by four light transoms. This elevation features English garden wall brick bond and a one story high, shed roofed open porch, supported by six round tapered wooden columns. Two eight light wooden panels (running north-south) divide the porch between the second and third west bays.

Three jerkin roofed dormer windows rest above, similar to those on the north elevation.

#### THE EAST AND WEST ELEVATIONS OF THE CENTRAL SECTION

The east and west elevations of the main section of the house are identical, holding a large first floor, rectangular, double-hung window, with twelve-over-twelve lights and a similar but smaller second floor window, holding nine-over-six lights. The east and west wings of the house are set back almost to the mid-point of each wall, allowing a depth to these wings and creating a focal point through projecting the central section.

#### SOUTH ELEVATION OF WEST WING

The south elevation of the library (now master bedroom) west wing features a central nine light entrance door, similar to the others, featuring no transom but surmounted by a flat arched, splayed brick lintel, flanked by two nine-over-six light windows. A jerkin roofed dormer window on the east side of this section's gable roof holds a twelve light window. A curvilinear brick retaining wall outlines a small grassy area along this south elevation, bordered by boxwood, with flagstone paths leading east to the brick landing of the main section's open porch and west to semi-circular steps leading to an iron gate, beyond which lies a small pond.

#### THE EAST ELEVATION OF THE EAST WING

The east elevation of the east wing holds two first floor, rectangular, double-hung windows, similar to those described, but holding six-over-six lights and a large second floor, central double window, each component a six-over-six light double hung, rectangular window, divided and flanked by flat pilasters, underlined by a flat wooden sill and surmounted by a single flat wooden lintel outlined by molding.

#### THE NORTH ELEVATION OF THE EAST WING

This elevation holds rectangular, open bible and cross paneled entrance door, surmounted by a four light fan light and a header brick, arched lintel

resting in the west bay. A six-over-six light window rests in the east bay, with a jerkin roofed dormer placed west of center in the gambrel roof.

A brick patio has been constructed in front of this section of the house.

THE SOUTH ELEVATION OF THE EAST WING

This wing served as maids quarters. Its south elevation features two rectangular, double-hung windows similar to those described, but holding six-over-six lights. A jerkin roofed dormer is placed west of center, holding a twelve light, rectangular casement window.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**  
 Page 1 of 2

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1941

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Morning Choice is architecturally significant to Howard County and the State of Maryland as one of the outstanding examples of Neo-Colonial architecture in its Georgian Colonial form in Howard County, designed by Bryden Hyde of Baltimore in 1941. This notable architect has also been active in the field of historic preservation in work with the Maryland Historical Trust.

Neo-Colonial buildings are strictly rectangular and Morning Choice is a good example of this, constructed in three distinct rectangular sections, the height and scale of the mid-section greater in relationship to the height and scale of its east and west wings. No projections are on the north elevation, with a minimum of minor projections on the south elevation, which features the east and west wings set back slightly.

The Neo-Colonial style is also characterized by strictly symmetrical facades. This can be seen most particularly on the north and south elevations of the mid-section. The north elevation features a central, rectangular entrance, flanked by two rectangular windows, with three jerkin roofed dormers above, while the south elevation features similar central and end bay windows, flanking second east and west bay rectangular entrances, with three similar dormers above. The dormers also characterize the Georgian form. Here total symmetry ends and a bit of the subtle overtones of symmetry with differentiation begins, creating a unique and interesting design. Although the east and west wings are similar in height and scale, their roof forms are not identical. The east wing has a gambel roof, while the west wing has a gable. Secondly, three bays are featured in the west wing's north and south facade, while only two are featured in the east wing. Fenestration for both wings are rectangular and double-hung, surmounted by splayed brick, flat arched lintels, underlined by flat wooden sills and decorated with shutters. They differ slightly, however, with taller windows in the west wing and no dormer window on the north facade, while a north as well as south dormer is featured in the east wing.

A detailed classical cornice, another feature at the Neo-Colonial  
 CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

style, crowns the roofline of the mid-section's north elevation, decorated with a row of dentils, The Neo-Colonial usually features more molding. This has been given a light touch with emphasis placed on a handsome colonial front door lock and unusually fine hardware throughout the house.

The placement of chimneys so as to contribute to the overall symmetry of the building's form is still another characteristic of this style. Morning Choice is representative of this characteristic, having two very wide brick chimneys inset into the middle of the east and west walls of the center of the house. Not only the general form of the building, but its stylistic detail, characterized by its exceptionally fine splayed brick, flat arched lintels, create a notable piece of architecture, worthy for inclusion to the Howard County Historic Sites Inventory, though it is short in its age requirement of fifty years.

Historically, the building is also significant to Howard County and the State of Maryland for its association with eighteenth century Belmont. Located just southwest of this fine landmark on a tract of land, called Moore's Morning Choice, upon which Caleb and Priscilla Dorsey also made their home in the mid-eighteenth century. Morning Choice stands on the top of a small slope of land looking south to Rockburn Branch, surrounded by lovely woods and deep meadow. Mary Howard Bruce and her husband, Mr. Smith, the son of a United States Senator from New Jersey acquired the property from Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Bruce, previous owners of Belmont and parents of Mrs. Smith. They constructed their home here, transplanting from Mr. Smith's home in New Jersey, the lovely boxwood surrounding their house. Later bought by Mr. and Mrs. John Malkmus, it has most recently been acquired by their daughter, Barbara and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Burnet Chalmers.

Architecturally notable as an extremely fine, well executed example of a Neo-Colonial Style building in its Georgian form and historically significant, through its association with Belmont, Morning Choice should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and any local landmark ordinance, which the citizens of Howard County might seek to initiate, should its owners so desire.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Howard County Land Records  
Interview with Mr. John Malkmus, previous owner, November 12, 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 18.00 acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 31, p. 244

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 372 Folio 67

### 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

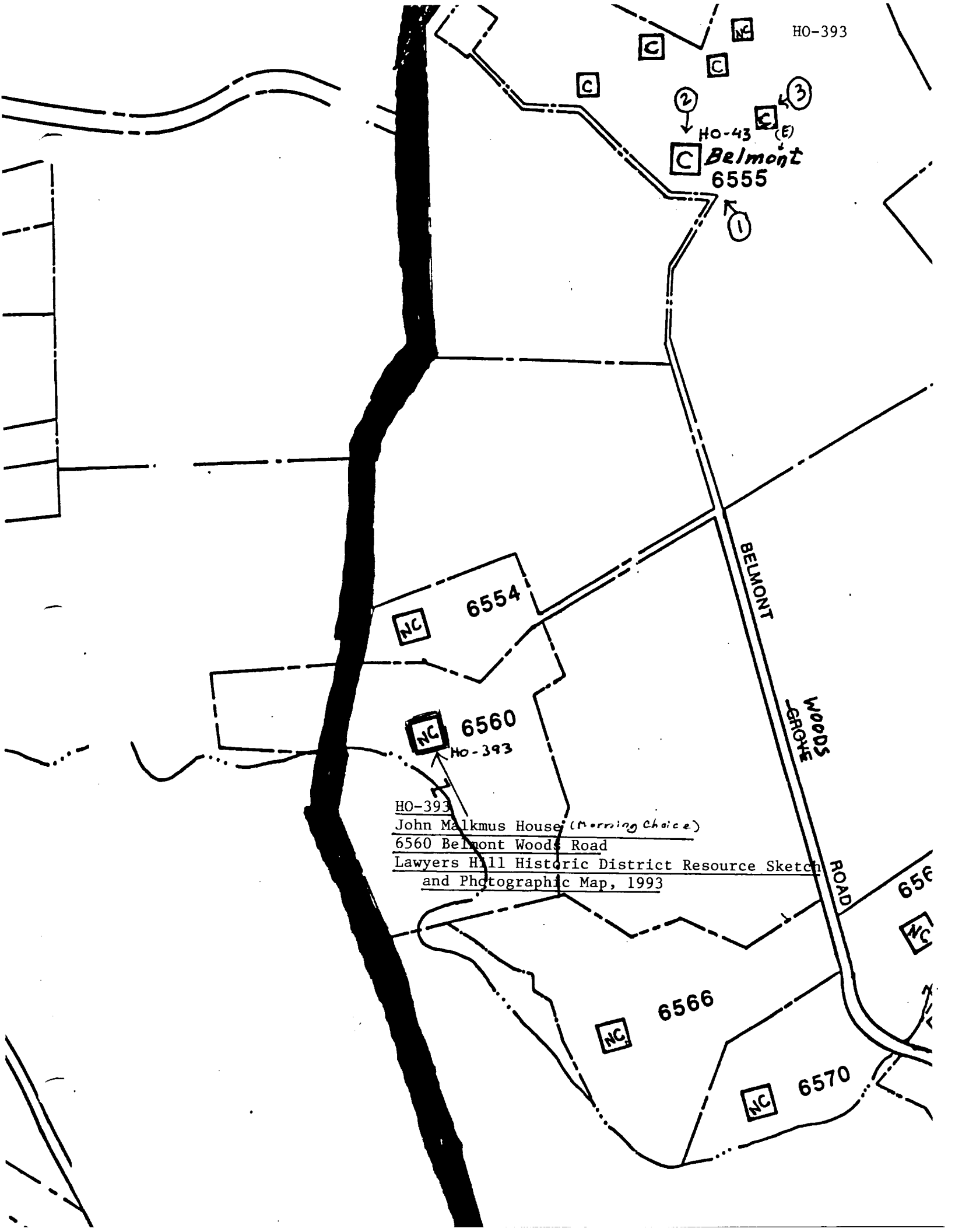
Maryland

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





HO-43 (E)  
 Belmont  
 6555

NC 6554

NC 6560  
 HO-393

HO-393  
John Malkmus House (Morning Choice)  
6560 Belmont Woods Road  
Lawyers Hill Historic District Resource Sketch  
and Photographic Map, 1993

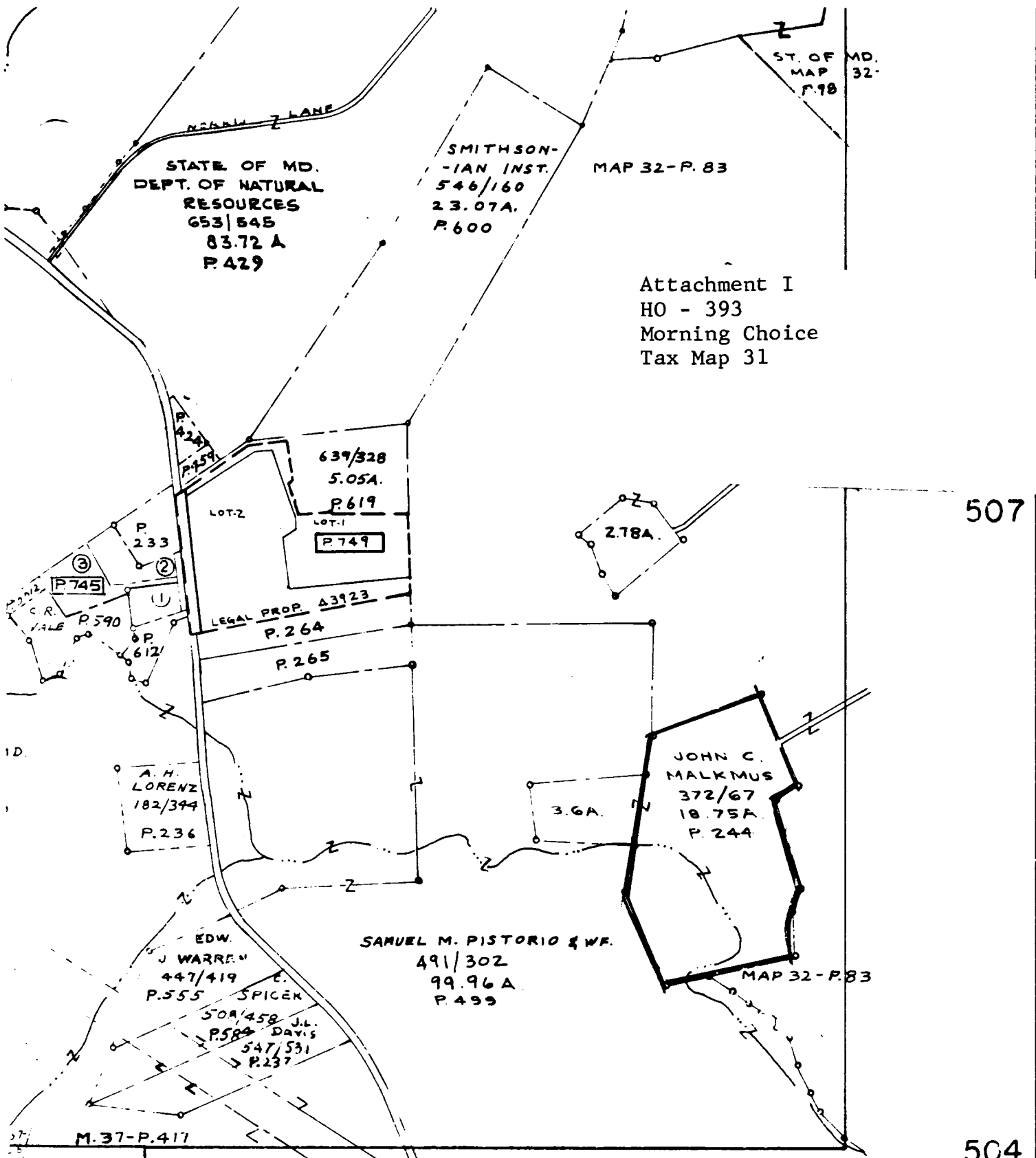
NC 6566

NC 6570

656  
 NC

BELMONT

WOODS  
 GROVE  
 ROAD



Attachment I  
 HO - 393  
 Morning Choice  
 Tax Map 31



SCALE IN FEET.



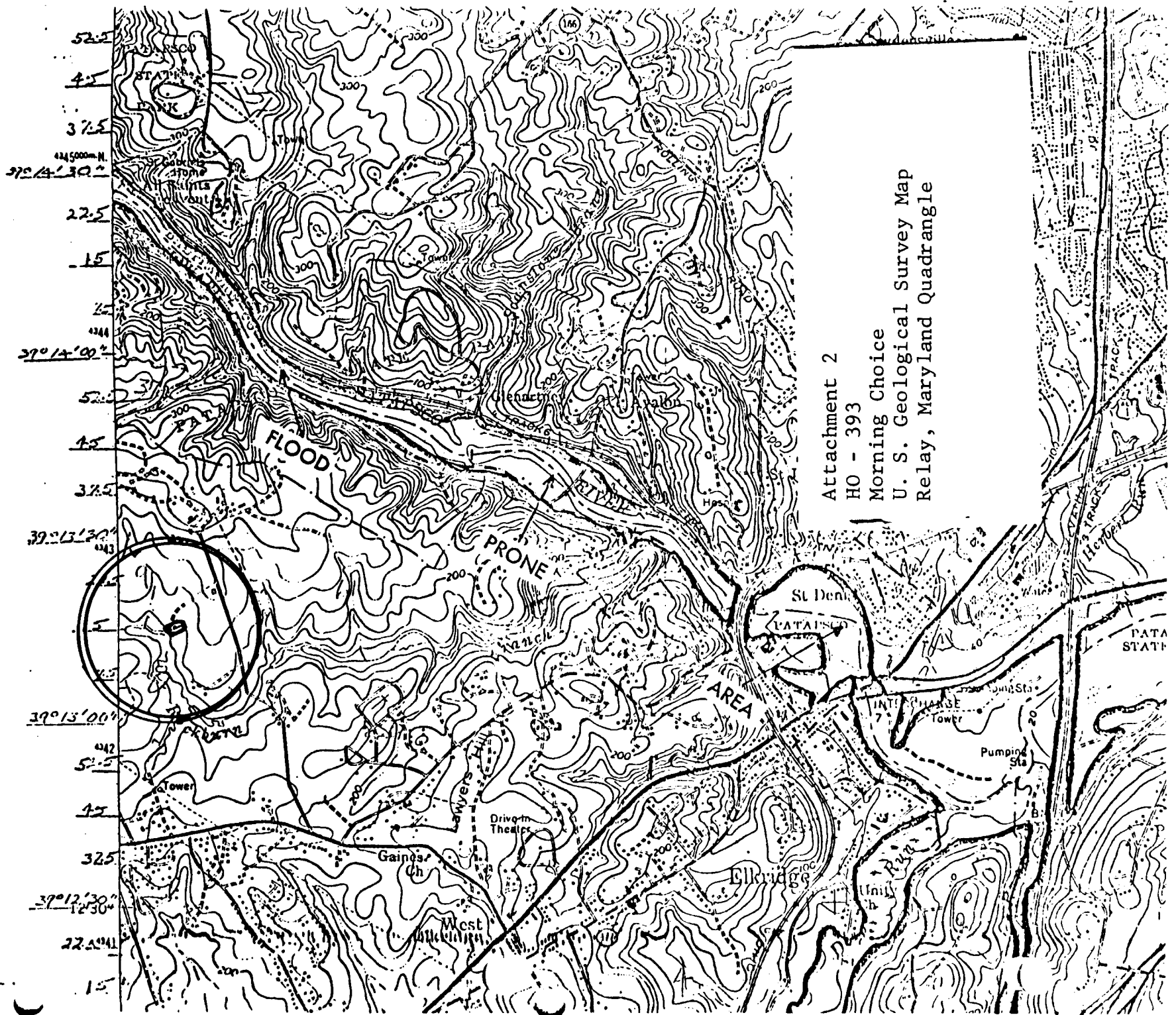
369 600 0 600 1200 1800 872

MAP NO.  
**31**

HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

854-504

39°14'30"



Attachment 2  
HO - 393  
Morning Choice  
U. S. Geological Survey Map  
Relay, Maryland Quadrangle



Ho. 393  
Morning Chaise  
SOUTH

NOVEMBER 1979