

HO-424  
Grimmet's Chance  
Simpsonville  
Private

1720

Grimmet's Chance faces north on the west side of Sanner Road 2/10 of a mile south of its intersection with Pindell School Road.

It is a rectangular, one room, one and a half story high, gabled roof (running east - west) log house with wide exterior stone and brick central chimney on its west wall, central, rectangular, north and south, beaded, batten wood, dutch doors, flanked by flat pilasters and surmounted by flat wooden lintels and two gabled roof north and south dormer windows, to whose west wall, mid-nineteenth log and mid-twentieth century stone additions have been made.

The entire complex is a well integrated and unified composition, surrounded by outstanding gardens and brick pathways, which blend to create an exceptionally fine landscape.

The log house is located on a 100 acre tract of land called Grimmet's Chance, which was surveyed by Robert Grimmet of Baltimore County, being part of a warrant for 300 acres granted to Henry Ridgely on the 15th day of October, 1720.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Grimmet's Chance

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
7010 Sanner Road

CITY, TOWN

Clarksville, Maryland

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

21029

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. Barry Schuttler

Telephone #: 531-5391

STREET & NUMBER (Mr. Eaker buying)

"Grimmet's Chance" - Sanner Road

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Clarksville, Maryland — VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Tax Map 41, p. 348  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

Liber #: 633

Folio #: 396

STREET & NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Ellicott City

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

STATE

21 State Circle, Annapolis

Maryland

# 7 DESCRIPTION

HO-424

Dist 5

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

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

Grimmet's Chance faces north on the west side of Sanner Road 2/10 of a mile south of its intersection with Pindell School Road.

Grimmet's Chance is a rectangular, one room deep, one and a half story high, gabled roof (running east - west) log structure with central, rectangular, north and south, beaded, batten wood, dutch doors, flanked by flat pilasters and surmounted by flat wooden lintels, and holding a wide, exterior stone and brick chimney on its west wall, to which has been added mid-nineteenth century and mid-twentieth century west additions.

The interior of the original 1720 log structure features an enclosed staircase, which was once probably only a ladder arrangement along the east side of the log structure's north wall and a wide stone, west wall cooking fire place. Handhewn ceiling joists have been exposed, which reveal the wide boards of the sleeping loft above. This loft has been increased in height by th latter addition of a high pitched, gable roof and two high pitched, intersecting gabled roof (running north - south) dormer windows on its north and south elevations. These windows give additional space as well as light to the two bedrooms above, which originally was only one large sleeping loft. An additional six-over-six light, rectangular window is centered into the A formed by the gable roof on its east wall. It features a red canvas awning which provides shade for the east exposure. Similar red and gray striped awnings protect the two dormer windows on the south elevation.

The first floor of the 1720 log house features a three-three light casement window, north of center on its east wall and another similar window west of the north entrance.

A one story high, shed roof open porch runs along the entire south elevation, supported by wooden posts.

The wide stone and brick chimney of the 1720 log structure held a double fireplace. It is believed that its west side served for cooking outside.

In the 1840's a smaller one and a half story high, log structure was constructed, which stood very close to the west wall of the eighteenth century structure, but was not contiguous to it. A south entrance was provided for this later log section and a three-three light first floor, casement window was placed in its north wall. Later the two log sections were joined together by German siding. Gabled roof north and south dormer windows serve the bedroom above, holding double, rectangular,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## Description

double-hung windows, each components holding six-over-six light windows. That on the south features a canvas awning. The one story high, shed roofed porch continues along the south elevation of this newer section of the building. In 1932 it was an open porch. In 1950 it was screened in. By 1960 it had been enclosed to provide for an enclosed vestibule.

A four light rectangular door serves as an entrance. East of this door are two six-six light casement windows and a similar window on the east wall of the enclosed vestibule.

This midsection of the house, along with the German siding section, has been created into one large room, served by the original outdoor cooking fireplace. One bedroom lies above, lighted by the north and south, gabled roof, dormer windows. Entry to this upstairs master bedroom is gained from the staircase of the new section of the house.

This latter gabled roof, one and a half story high stone section was constructed circa 1950 by the Sanner family. It is four bays wide and one room deep with a square stone, exterior chimney on the northeast corner of the building. It features two end bay, rectangular south entrances and gabled roof, dormer windows on its north and south elevations.

This section of the house holds two first floor rooms, a kitchen and dining room, as well as an enclosed staircase along its west wall. The west wall of this staircase features a rectangular second floor, glass blocked window as well as a circular, six light, window set into the north side of this wall on the second floor. One very large second floor living room study takes up the major part of the stone section's second floor with a bath located in its northeast corner and closets in its southeast corner. A central east entrance leads into the master bedroom over the mid-nineteenth century, log midsection of the house.

This stone section was constructed over a full stone basement, which was extended to lie beneath both log sections, which previously had no full basements.

A brick stairwell and eight brick steps, located on the west end of the 1720 log structures' north wall lead down to a rectangular cellar door. An additional rectangular cellar entrance is located on the west wall of the twentieth century stone section of the house.

The north wall of the stone section holds a first floor four-four light, rectangular, casement kitchen window on its east side and a six-over-six light rectangular, dining room window on its west side. Above rest two vertically aligned, six-over-six light double-hung windows set into gabled roof dormer windows, which are decorated with a row of dentils. The cornice, too, at this elevation is decorated with a row of dentils.

The two central windows on this section's south wall feature projecting stone sills. A double rectangular window, each component a double-hung window, holding six-over-six lights rests west of center and a single six-over-six light window east of center. The central gabled roof, dormer window above holds a six-over-six light window, whose pediment is decorated with a row of dentils. The house is surrounded by lovely landscaping with a circular drive on its south elevation.

A one story high, gabled roof, log smoke house lies southwest of the house.

**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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES            1720-1840                            BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Grimmet's Chance is an unusually well preserved example of log vernacular architecture, featuring half notch joining.

It is significant to both Howard County and the State of Maryland as such architecturally, as well as an example of how an early eighteenth century structure can be utilized as part of a greater building complex, while maintaining its original integrity.

Two additions have been made to the west wall of the original log structure. The first addition was really constructed beside and not contiguous to the old building, while the second was added to the west wall of the mid nineteenth century log addition. This addition was later joined to the house by a German siding wall and created into one very comfortable sitting room on the first floor, with a master bedroom on the second floor.

The house was strung out almost in a straight line with a final mid twentieth century stone section constructed on the west wall of the 1840 log mid section. An old enclosed staircase, which probably replaced an earlier ladder arrangement, provides access to the two bedrooms above the 1720 log building, while a west wall enclosed staircase for the twentieth century section provides access to its second floor rooms and to those of the 1840 addition.

A cellar was dug out under the 1720 and 1840 sections of the house to provide one very large cellar beneath the entire building complex.

In the early days log construction usually featured dirt floors and little or no foundations.

Though the roof has obviously been raised to provide additional light and space, the basic log construction is entirely exposed on both the interior and exterior walls. Often such construction is hidden behind frame siding on both the interior and exterior walls, so that such construction techniques as the half notch corner joining of the logs cannot be seen.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Not only are the log walls and construction exposed but the ceiling joists and second floor boards as well. In addition, the original stone cooking fireplace remains very much as it did in the eighteenth century with no stone, brick or frame facing to mar its original construction.

The wide stone fireplace is also noteworthy as a double fireplace.

Such construction is significant for it provides information about the use of outdoor fireplaces for cooking, for the mid-nineteenth century log addition was not yet constructed and when initially constructed was not contiguous to the earlier dwelling, leaving a small space for the outdoor fireplace.

In addition to Grimmet's Chance providing a valuable example of log construction of the early eighteenth century, it also provides us with interesting historical information.

In the original deed to the property several interesting historical facts are noted. 1) Robert Grimmet surveyed and laid out one hundred acres of land called Grimmet's Chance, "lying in the County aforesaid on the west side of the Middle River of the Patuxent and on the south side of Carroll's Manor." 2) This land was part of a warrant for 300 acres granted to Henry Ridgley the 15th day of October 1720. 3) Robert Grimmet "assigned, sold, transferred and made over" this land to Thomas Worthington of Ann Arundel County, a wealthy land owner. 4) Conditions of plantation, probably a set of rules of procedure for transferring land were dated April 15, 1684. 5) Amendments, called "alterations" took effect December 4, 1696.

Both Henry Ridgley and Thomas Worthington were men of property who held the land. Henry Ridgley consented to sell the land to Robert Grimmet, while Thomas Worthington acted in the capacity of banker, providing the money and holding deed to the property.

As late as 1964, seventy of the original 100 acres was held by Wilmer Sanner, who sold the property to the Rouse Company. In February 1965, Mr. and Mrs. Barry Schuttler bought the house with five acres of land and later an additional six acres were acquired.

The log house with five acres is now in the process of being sold and plans are being made by its present owners to build a new home south of it on the six acres of land once a part of the property.

Not only is the house of significance architecturally and in the field of local history, it is also noteworthy for its exceptionally fine landscaping, designed and executed by its owners.

The wide broad lawn which surrounds each side of the house, as well as the "U" shaped driveway terminating in a circular drive on the south elevation create a curvilinear pattern which is continued and repeated in the brick walks and curved plantings around the building.

The plan is so well and simply executed that there appears to be no plan at all. Ivy borders along brick pathways seem entirely natural while the walks themselves seem always to have been there.

It is a fine example of a blending of the unlimited vista of the English landscape with a flavor of the Japanese garden, salted with the antebellum brick pathways and floral plantings found in the southern United States.

For these reasons, Grimmet's Chance is important and significant to Howard County and the State of Maryland. It is a well preserved example of early eighteenth century, vernacular, log architecture, to which later additions have been successfully made. In addition it has an interesting history and is surrounded by outstanding landscaping.

As such, it should be considered for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places, the State Critical Areas Program and any local landmark ordinance the citizens of Howard County may seek to initiate.

Note: Both the Martennet Map of 1860, Attachment 3, and the Hopkin's Atlas of 1878 note this as the residence of Allen Cross.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Barry Schuttler, present owners, at their home, June 26, 1979. Private papers and photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Barry Schuttler.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.1~~2~~ acres

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map  
41

Note: This property is in the process of being sold, with some five acres of land, rather than the present 11 acres it comprises.

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 633 Folio 396

## 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.

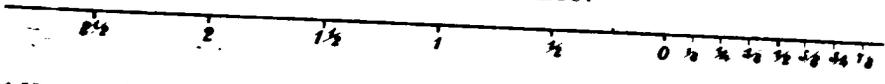
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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



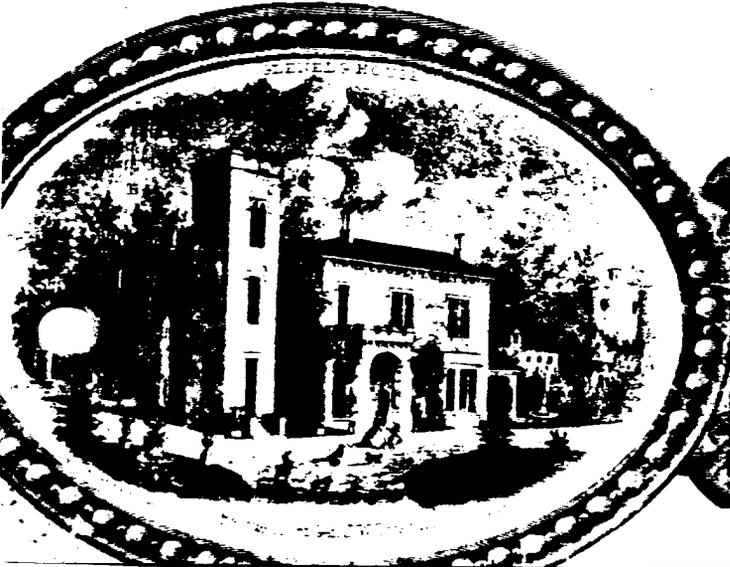


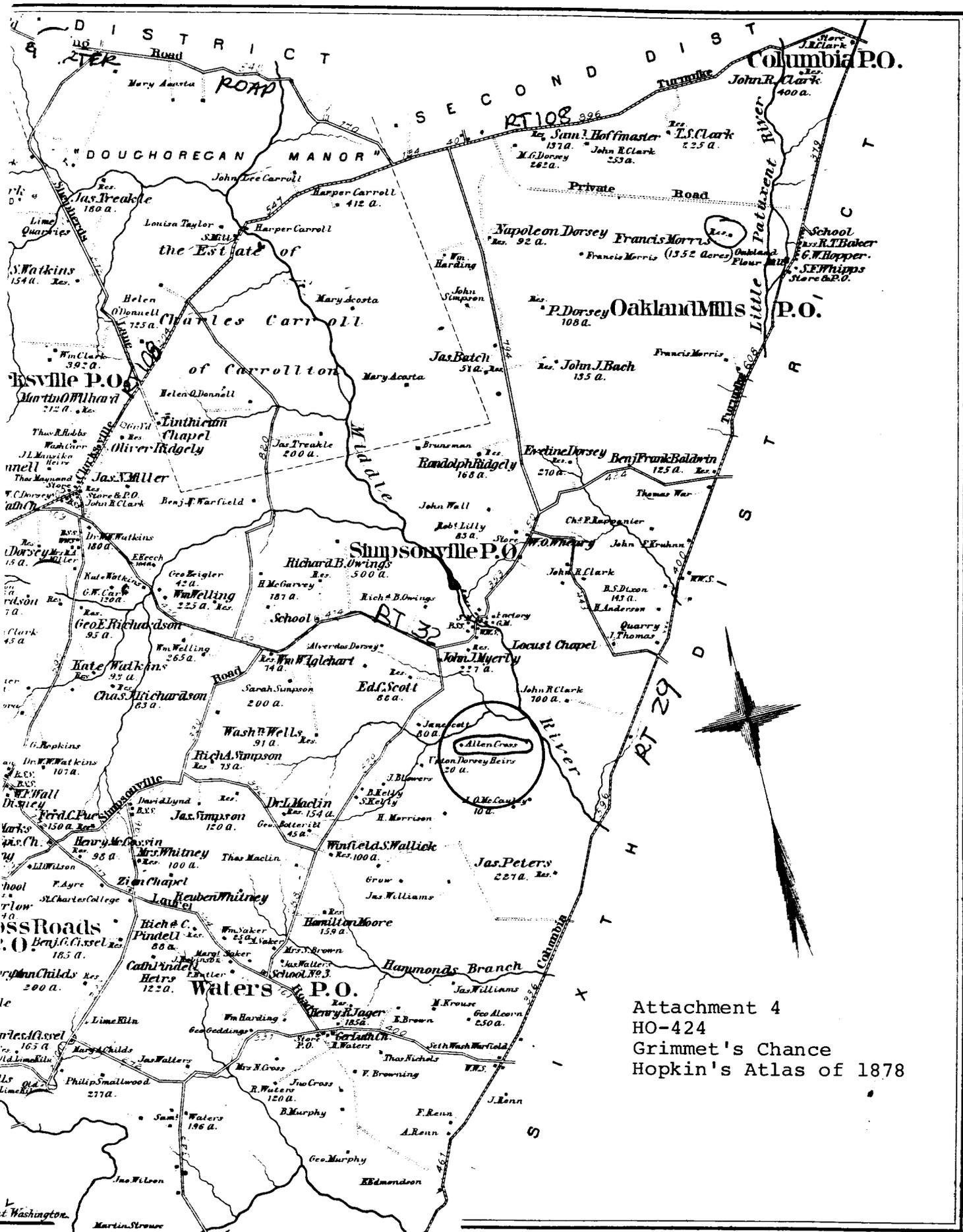
Scale 1 1/2 inches to one mile.



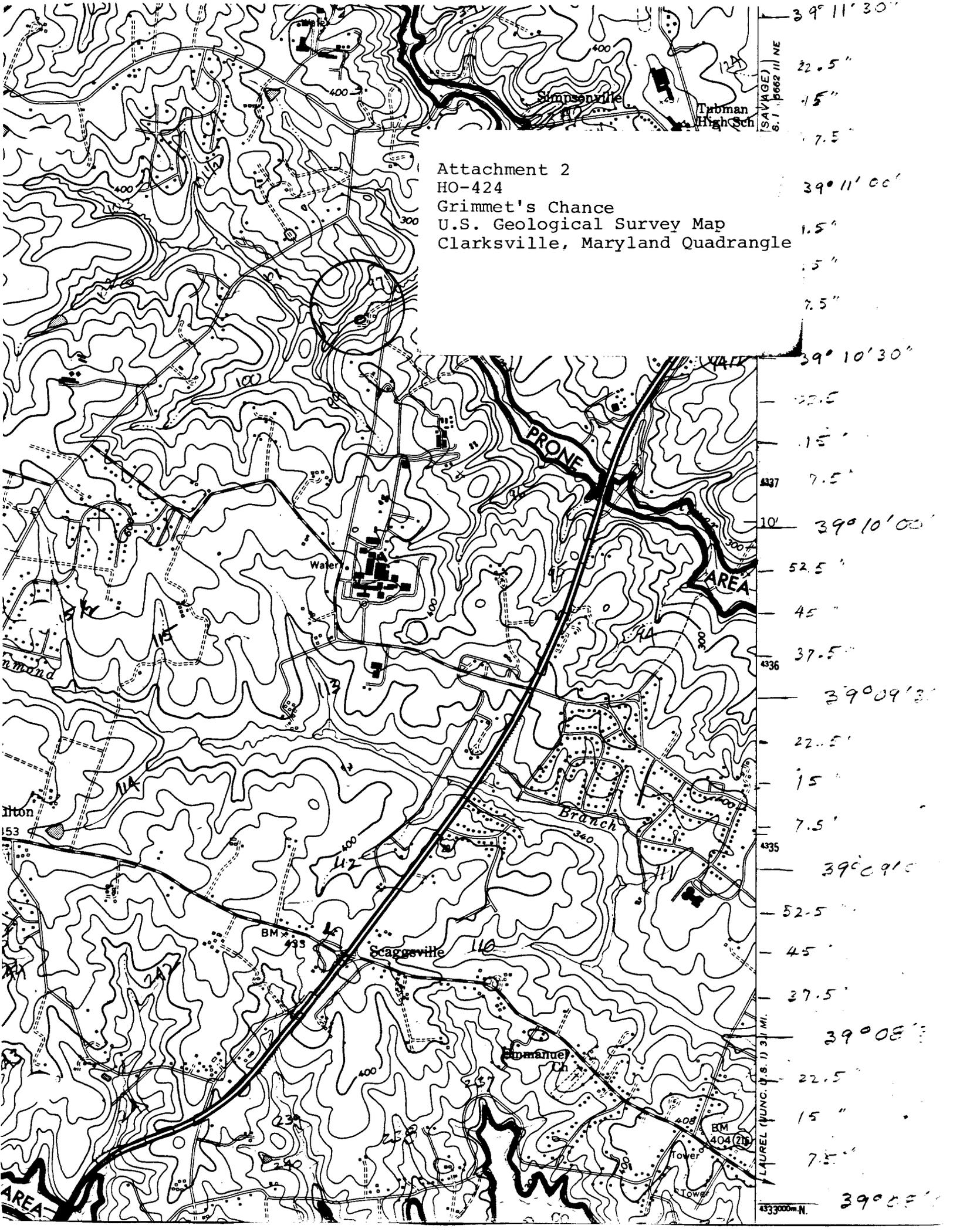
field in the Clerks office of the District Court of Maryland.

Attachment 3  
 HO-424  
 Grimmet's Chance  
 Martennet Map of 1860





Attachment 4  
 HO-424  
 Grimmet's Chance  
 Hopkin's Atlas of 1878



Attachment 2  
HO-424  
Grimmet's Chance  
U.S. Geological Survey Map  
Clarksville, Maryland Quadrangle

Latitude	Longitude
39° 11' 30"	77° 15' 30"
22.5"	
15"	
7.5"	
39° 11' 00"	
1.5"	
7.5"	
39° 10' 30"	
22.5"	
15"	
7.5"	
39° 10' 00"	
52.5"	
45"	
37.5"	
39° 09' 30"	
22.5"	
15"	
7.5"	
39° 09' 00"	
52.5"	
45"	
37.5"	
39° 08' 30"	
22.5"	
15"	
7.5"	
39° 08' 00"	

LAUREL (JUNC. U.S. 1) 31 MI.  
4333000m N



Ho-424,  
GRIMMET'S CHANCE

JUNE 1979  
E.B. THOMPSON AICP