

Caples  
HO-517, John Caples House  
5799 Railroad Avenue, Elkridge  
Surveyed by: Kristin Hill  
March 2003

## ADDENDUM

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### Section 3. Owner of Property

Joseph Moineau  
5799 Railroad Avenue  
Elkridge, Maryland 21075

### Section 4. Location of Legal Description

Howard County Courthouse  
Ellicott City  
Liber 4194, Folio 388  
Tax map 38, Parcel 680

### Section 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

X Other Contributing building in the Elkridge Landing Historic Survey District, HO-784

### Section 7. Description

Condition: Good  
Date: ca. 1865

Recorded in the 1970's as the John Caples House, this two story three bay frame dwelling on a brick foundation is very similar in form to several houses in the immediate vicinity. It faces south on the north side of the road one house west of the intersection with Furnace Avenue. The side gabled roof over the front single pile is intersected by a rear two story single pile cross gabled wing which extends from the two western-most bays on the rear façade. A single brick stovepipe chimney projects from the center of the ridge of the side gabled section which has a boxed cornice. A central entry on the first story of the front façade is flanked by a window on either side and two windows on the second story are vertically aligned over the first story windows. A single story hipped roof porch completes the front façade and retains some original elements that have been replaced on other buildings. The porch supports are square wood posts with chamfered corners, the porch floor is wood, and it rests on brick piers. The porch has no balustrade. The original windows in the house have been replaced with 1/1 vinyl units and the house is clad in vinyl siding and capped by an asphalt shingle roof. A very large frame outbuilding clad in plywood with a gambrel roof is located behind the house. It is extremely difficult to date this building from exterior evidence only but it is possible that this is the structure shown on both the 1860 Martenet map and the 1878 Hopkins map as belonging to Jas. Harman.

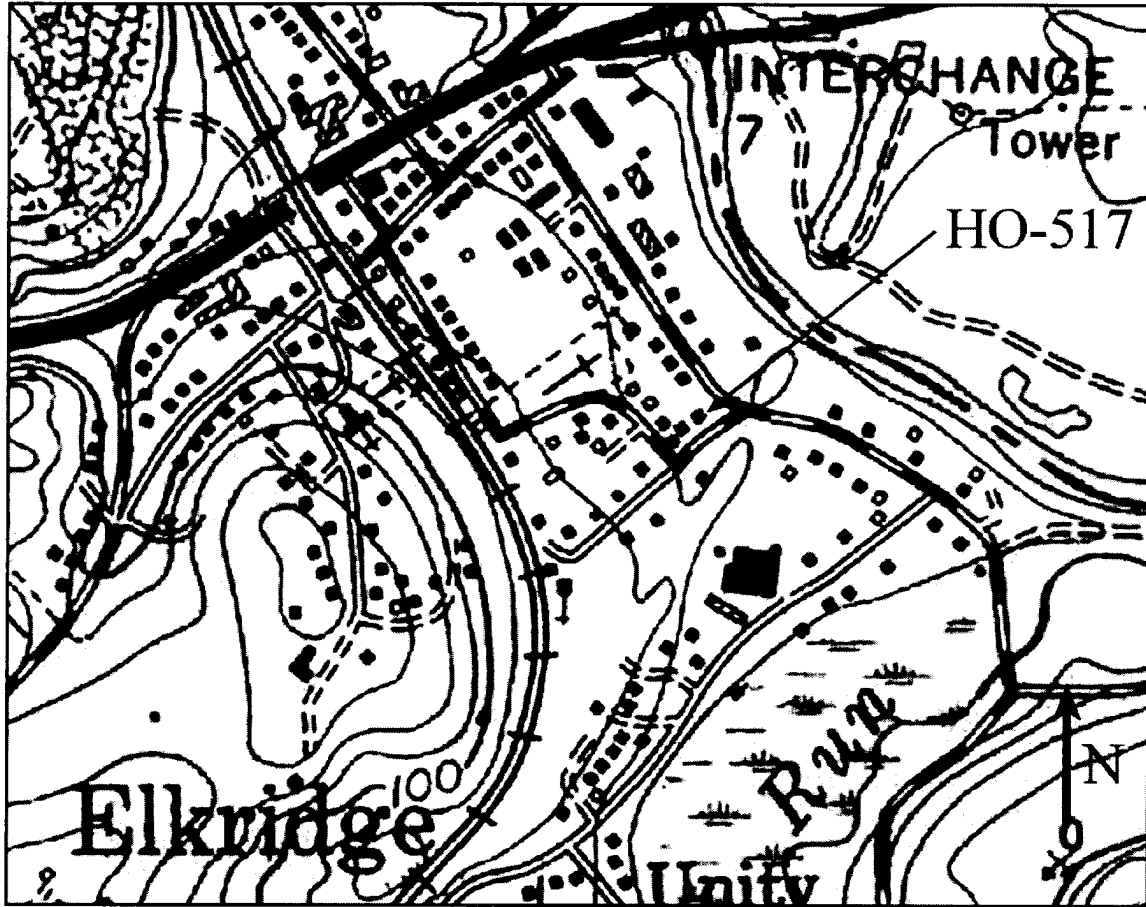
*Caples*  
HO-517, John ~~Caples~~ House  
5799 Railroad Avenue, Elkridge  
Surveyed by: Kristin Hill  
March 2003

## **ADDENDUM**

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### Section 11. Form Prepared by

Kristin H. Hill, Architectural Historian  
Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
410-313-4335  
May 2003



HO-517, John <sup>Caples</sup> Caples House  
Elkrige, Howard County, MD  
USGS Topographic Quadrangle, Relay  
7.5 Minute Series, 1957 (PR 1966 and 1974)



SPEED  
LIMIT  
25

10/21/10, John C. Jones House

5-1000 N. 10th St., Bridge Landing Survey, District

10-1000-10-10-10

10-10-10-10-10

10-10-10-10-10

10-10-10-10-10

10-10

HO-517

The John Caples House

Elkridge

Private

circa 1860

The John Caples House faces south on the north side of Railroad Avenue, one house west of its intersection with Furnace Avenue. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame structure, resting on a brick foundation, with central, square brick chimney and one bay wide, one bay deep, two story high, intersecting gable roof (running north-south) frame north wing, also resting on a brick foundation off the west side of the building's north wall. Additionally, one story high, shed roofed, appendages are presently under construction, along this latter section's east wall.

This building is believed to be the Harman House, noted on both the Martennet Map of 1860 and the Hopkin's Atlas of 1878.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-517  
Dist. 1

MAI # 140517550+

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC The John Caples House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER .5793 Railroad Avenue

CITY, TOWN Elkridge

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
6th

STATE Maryland

COUNTY  
Howard

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input 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 Virginia Moss

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER  
5869 Main Street

CITY, TOWN  
Elkridge

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland, 21227

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Tax Map 38, p. 681  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

Liber #: 66  
Folio #: 221

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-517  
Dist. 1

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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**

The John Caples House faces south on the north side of Railroad Avenue, one house west of its intersection with Furnace Avenue. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame structure, resting on a brick foundation, with central, square brick chimney and one bay wide, one bay deep, two story high, intersecting gable roof (running north-south) frame north wing, resting on a brick foundation, off the west side of the building's north wall. Additional one story high, shed roofed appendages are presently under construction, along this latter section's east wall.

A one story high, hipped roof, open porch, supported by four square wooden posts runs along almost the entire south elevation, covering the central rectangular, cross paneled door, which is surmounted by a two light transom.

Fenestration for the house is vertically aligned and double-hung, holding both six-over-six and two-over-two lights. The latter occur almost entirely on the front elevation, while the former occur on the east and west elevations.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

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<b>SPECIFIC DATES</b>	circa 1870	<b>BUILDER/ARCHITECT</b>
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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The John Caples House is significant to the State of Maryland and Howard County architecturally as an example of a three bay wide, two story house of the mid nineteenth century and historically as the residence of Mr. Caples, who constructed it circa 1870.

Architecturally, it is a simple, narrow, three bay wide, two story house, constructed in an "L" plan, with central hall and fireplaces in each of the two downstairs rooms and the kitchen's north wall.

Not only is the Caples House important individually, but it is significant to the streetscape along the north side of Railroad Avenue from Furnace Road, west to Paradise Avenue, which leads to the Baptist Church, an early nineteenth century congregation, which has constructed a new church on the site of the old, located at the end of the south side of Paradise Avenue and noted on the 1860 Martennet Map. The Caples House serves as both an architectural and an historic anchor to the southeast corner of the Railroad Avenue Historic District. It, in conjunction with the two double houses west of it, provide an interesting, as well as connecting visual element to the streetscape, leading up to the Baptist Church.

A modern twentieth century brick house rests in the northwest corner of Furnace Road and Railroad Avenue. It might be called a contributing site for its scale and residential use in no way disturb the general character of the area. The two houses, lying west, originally double, two story high, frame houses with central brick chimneys, contribute and add continuity to the architectural character of this section of Railroad Avenue. Mrs. Fairbanks House, HO-516, located on the northwest corner of Railroad Avenue and Paradise Avenue continues this rythm, though its Victorian gingerbread additions, see Section 7, Description of HO-516, as well as its alignment facing east, rather than south, offers a creative accent and architectural focal point to the streetscape. West of this corner house are two modern twentieth century structures, built by a Mr. Hood, who once owned the Mrs. Fairbanks House and the land west of the house, comprising these two lots.

Further west still is HO-515, the Shipley House, and its two auxiliary nineteenth century structures. That southwest of the Shipley House is an early structure, noted on the 1860 Martennet Map and originally comprising four rooms, two up and two down, with central brick chimney. Today, Mr. Melvin Gray has constructed a large east wing to this otherwise modest structure.

An attempt has been made to indicate the architectural importance of these relatively

modest structures individually, but important in their aggregate, along the north side of Paradise and Railroad Avenues, which form the southern boundary to the Railroad Avenue Historic District. Though modest, several are noted on the 1860 Marten-net Map and all on the 1878 Hopkin's Atlas. It would have been relatively simple to deal with only the northern section of Railroad Avenue, but in doing so, these worthwhile buildings and their composite structure might have been ignored, and the importance of protecting them overlooked. Any inclusion to the National Register of Historic Sites should incorporate these houses, which form a rather strong architectural, as well as historic composition.

Historically, it was owned by the Moss family in the early twentieth century. Virginia Peery Moss inherited the property from her mother, Mrs. Sallie C. Peery, who in turn inherited this house and lot from Christina Toomey. On September 18, 1896 (66-221) Daniel Murray, a trustee in a case in Equity in the Howard County Circuit Court sold the house and lot to Christina Toomey at public auction. In the proceedings, an old deed of April 1, 1870, in which Charity Fairbanks sold this lot to John T. Caples for \$104.84, stated the following provision: "to allow him for the dwelling to be erected on said lot to use water from her pumps standing on her land in common with the family of the said Charity Fairbanks and those deriving like under her to her present residence and in common with any other person or persons to whom the same privilege may be granted".

By September 7, 1876, the house had been constructed, and was noted then, in the will of John Thomas Caples, as the house and lot "where I now live", "acquired by him by deed from Charity Fairbanks".

Architecturally and historically noteworthy, the John Caples House, in conjunction with The Railroad Avenue Historic District, should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, The State Critical Areas Program, and any local landmark ordinance, the residents of the area may seek to initiate.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Record of Howard County  
Interview with Mr. Moss, son of Virginia Moss,  
Main Street, Elkridge  
Saturday, February 17, 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 lot plus improvements

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 38

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 66 Folio 221

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

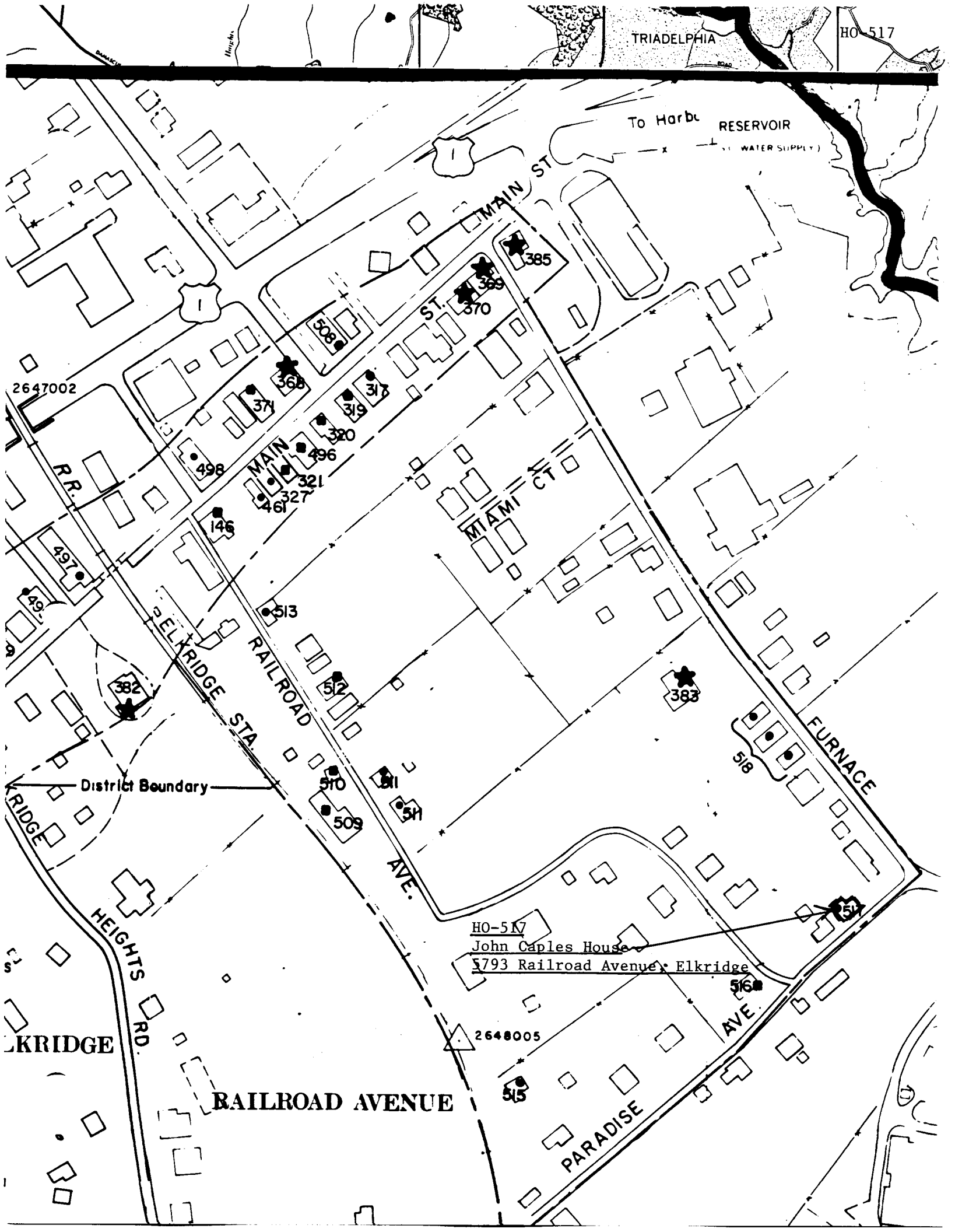
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

To Harbor RESERVOIR

(WATER SUPPLY)



2647002

HO-5N

John Caples House

5793 Railroad Avenue, Elkridge

2648005

RAILROAD AVENUE

ELKRIDGE

HEIGHTS RD

District Boundary

ELKRIDGE STA

RR

MAIN ST

ST

MAIN ST

MIAMI CT

FURNACE

PARADISE

AVE

518

383

515

510

509

513

512

146

498

368

37

319

373

390

496

321

46

327

385

369

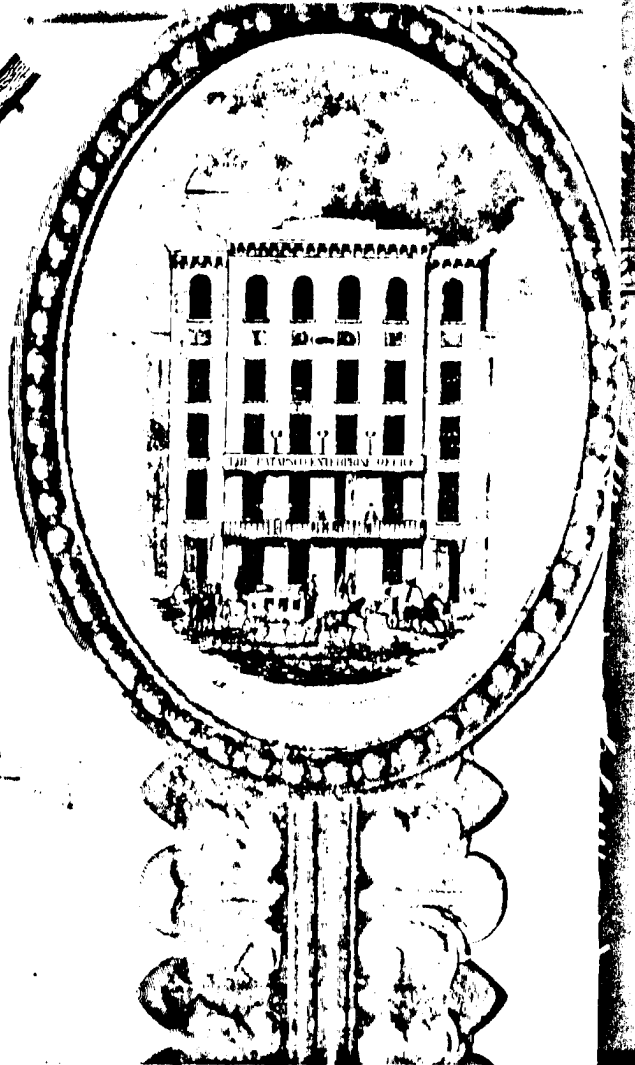
370

508



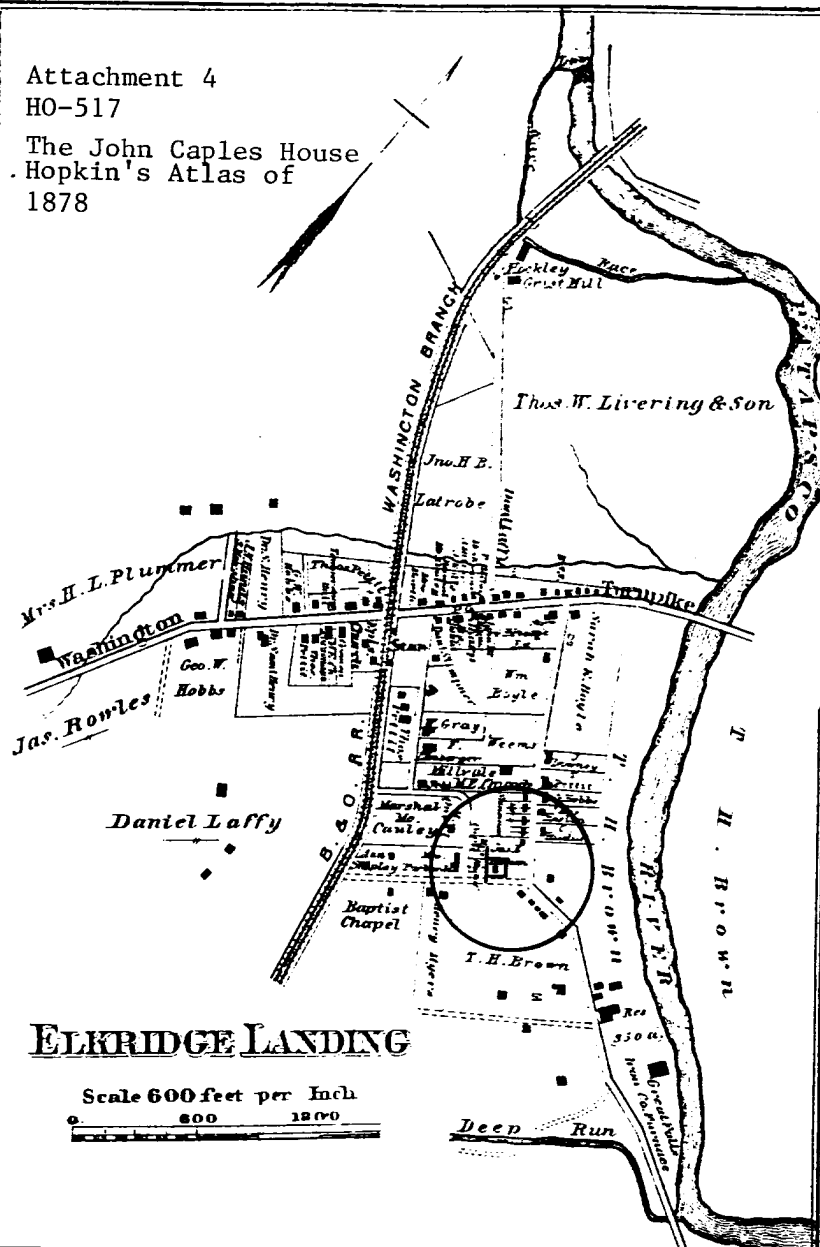


Attachment 3  
 HO-517  
 The John Caples House  
 Martennet Map of 1860



Attachment 4  
HO-517

The John Caples House  
Hopkin's Atlas of  
1878



<b>Elkridge Landing Business Notices.</b>
<b>ATTORNEYS AT LAW.</b>
ROBERT A. DOBBINS.
GEORGE W. DOBBINS, 42 St. Paul street, Baltimore.
THOMAS M. DOBBINS, 42 St. Paul street, Baltimore.
<b>BLACKSMITHS AND WHEEL- WRIGHTS.</b>
JOHN BRYAN.
JOHN B. HELM.
<b>CARPENTER.</b>
JAMES ROWLES.
<b>ENGINEER.</b>
JOHN N. HANDS.
<b>GENERAL MERCHANTS.</b>
DANIEL LAFFY.
MARSHALL MCCAULEY.
JOSEPH H. TALBOT.
GEORGE W. POCOCK.
<b>POST MASTER.</b>
JAMES KARP.
<b>TINSMITH.</b>
GEORGE LANOR, Tin and Sheet Iron Worker, Roofing and Spouting, etc.

**ELKRIDGE LANDING**

Scale 600 feet per Inch  
0 600 1200

**FIRST DISTRICT**

**HOWARD COUNTY**

Scale 3 Inches per Mile  
0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 1 1/2 2 2 1/2 3 3 1/2 4 4 1/2 5

EXPLANATIONS	
Dist. & Co. Lines	-----
County Roads	-----
Private "	-----
Turpicks "	-----
Rail Roads	-----
Streams	-----
The figures along the Route shows the distance in Rods from junction to junction thereof	

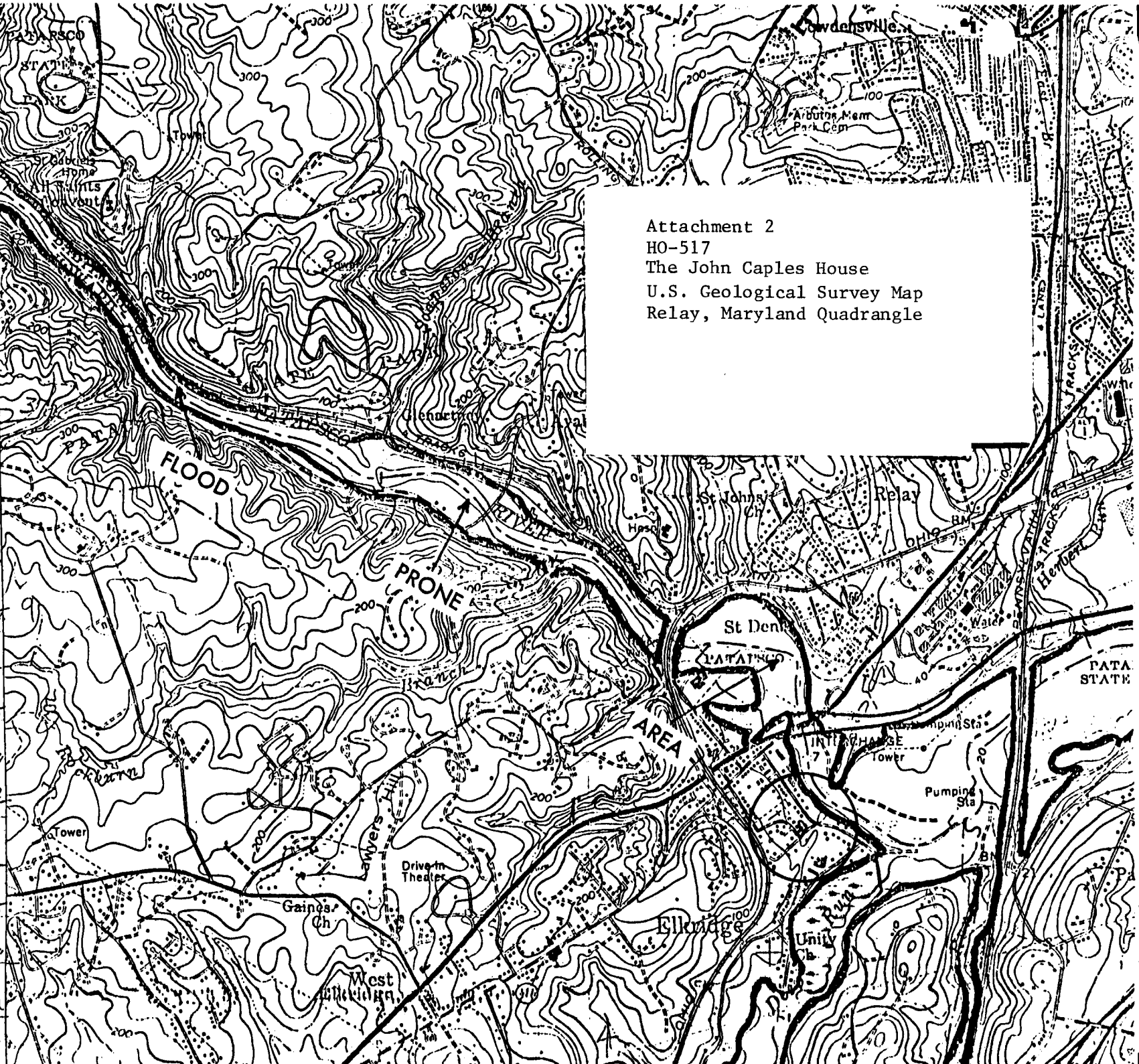


**Hooversville P.O.**

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1878 by E. H. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington

5/2/50  
4/15

52.5  
4.5  
37.5  
4345000m N.  
59°14'30"  
22.5  
15  
7.5  
4344  
59°14'00"  
4.5  
37.5  
39°13'30"  
4343  
22.5  
15  
7.5  
39°13'00"  
4342  
52.5  
4.5  
32.5  
39°12'30"  
12'30"  
22.5  
15



Attachment 2  
HO-517  
The John Caples House  
U.S. Geological Survey Map  
Relay, Maryland Quadrangle

DATA STATE





Ho-517  
The John Caples House  
SW

Cleora Thompson, AICP  
February, 1979