

HO-553  
The Joshua Disney Log House  
Private  
Highland

Circa 1863

Joshua Disney's Log House faces north on the south side of Route 108, three houses west of its intersection with Route 216. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, log house, resting on a stone foundation, with a 1900, one bay wide, two story high, frame addition constructed along its east wall. Its wide brick and stone chimney is placed on the east wall of the original 22'x16' log house, while another square brick chimney is centered on its west wall. The latter holds no fireplace and is believed to have been used for a stove.

This log house is believed to have been constructed circa 1863, by Joshua Disney and may well have existed prior to that time.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-553  
 District 5  
 Clarksville  
 Magi # 1405535504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
 Joshua Disney's Log House  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
 13475 Route 108, Clarksville Pike

CITY, TOWN

Highland, Maryland 20777

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Cy and Mildred Gallis

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

13475 Route 108

CITY, TOWN

Highland, Maryland 20777

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Tax Map 40 p. 288  
 Hall of Records

Liber #: 161

Folio #: 343

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-553  
District 5  
Clarksville

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Joshua Disney's Log House faces north on the south side of Route 108, three houses west of its intersection with Route 216. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, log house, resting on a stone foundation, with a 1900 one bay wide, two story high, frame addition constructed along its east wall. Its wide brick and stone chimney is placed on the east wall of the original 22'x16' log house, while another square brick chimney is centered on its west wall. The latter holds no fireplace and is believed to have been used for a stove.

### North Elevation

The north elevation of the original log house has been exposed so that the first floor ceiling joists, as well as log construction, can be seen. This elevation holds a central, rectangular, twelve light entrance door, flanked by two rectangular, double-hung windows, holding six-over-six lights, underlined by projecting, flat wooden sills and surmounted by flat wooden lintels. End bay, second floor, vertically aligned windows rest above. In addition, a similar first and second floor, vertically aligned, window rests in the east end bay of the 1900 frame addition.

### West Elevation

The west elevation holds a first floor, rectangular, double window, composed of two rectangular, double-hung windows, holding six-over-one lights, separated and flanked by a flat, wooden pilaster. A second floor, rectangular, double-hung window, holding six-over-six lights is centered into this wall.

East Elevation

The east elevation holds a similar rectangular, first and second floor, vertically aligned window, with a square four light attic window above. The east wall of the one story high, shed roofed, frame addition, which runs along the building's south wall, holds two square, double-hung, six-over-six light windows.

South Elevation

The south elevation of both the original log house and its addition holds a one story high, shed roofed addition, the south bay of which was once used as a summer kitchen. It holds a small, rectangular, double-hung, six-over-six light window. North of this original summer kitchen once ran an open porch, which was screened in and later enclosed. Its south wall, from east to west holds 1) a rectangular, double-hung window, holding six-over-six lights 2) a rectangular entrance door, 3) a small, rectangular one-one light casement window and 4) a rectangular, double-hung window, holding four-over-four lights. The entire interior of the log house has been exposed to reveal the original log construction, ceiling joists and flooring.

**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 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)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Circa 1863

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Joshua Disney Log House at Highland, Howard County, Maryland, is significant as a fine example of vernacular log architecture<sup>1</sup> and important to local history<sup>2</sup> as the home of Joshua Disney, wheelwright and blacksmith.

**HISTORY AND SUPPORT**

1. This log house is believed to have been constructed by Joshua Disney in 1863, when he bought four acres of land from Lorenzo and Rachel Wilson for \$100.00. The 1860 Martenet Map notes Joshua Disney located here, with two buildings in this general location. It is possible that he occupied this building and later bought the property. At any rate, by 1863, Joshua Disney occupied this log house, which has presently been restored by Cy and Mildred Gallis, its present owners.

Architecturally, it is a fine example of log construction, 22 feet wide, and 16 feet deep, composed of one large room, with a wide stone fireplace centered on its east wall and a staircase running along its south wall. The entire interior, log construction is revealed, as well as the hand hewn floor joists and second floor plank floors. The exterior north wall also reveals log construction, while the siding on the west wall has been retained to provide additional

insulation at this elevation.

An additional bay was added circa 1900, extending eastward and continuing the height and general proportions of the original structure. An additional one story high, enclosed, shed roofed addition, once an open porch and summer kitchen, now runs along the building's south wall. Neither of these additions detract in any way from the original log structure, one of the finest examples of such nineteenth century, construction in Howard County.

2. The history of the building can be traced back to a deed from Amos W. Welsh to Lorezo Wilson, 2 January, 1855 (liber 15-folio 291-Howard County Records). Eight years later Lorenzo and Rachel Wilson sold this four acre tract of land for \$100.00 to Joshua Disney. At that time, Route 216 was known as Old Annapolis Road. Joshua Disney had three children, one of whom, Clarence, served as wheelwright, as well as Malcom, Clarence's son.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Chamblin, Gill. "Highland: The Communities of Howard County". The Howard County Times. Sept. 11, 1980 pp. 25-28

Garland, Jeanne. "Living in a Log Cabin Welds Romance of Past with Present". Howard Sun. Feb. 15, 1981 p.1

Interview with Mrs. Mildred Gallis, owner, June 23, 1981

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.56 A+ 'mp'

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 40 p. 288

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 161 Folio 343

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, A.I.C.P., Projects Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3430 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) 269 - 2348

Original Open Porch  
Now Enclosed

Staircase

One Bay Wide,  
Two Story High,  
Frame Addition  
Exterior Chimney

Original Log  
House

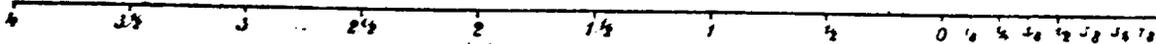
Exposed Interior Logs and Hand  
Hewn Floor Joists

Exposed Exterior Logs

Figure 1  
HO-553  
The Joshua Disney's  
Log House  
First Floor Plan

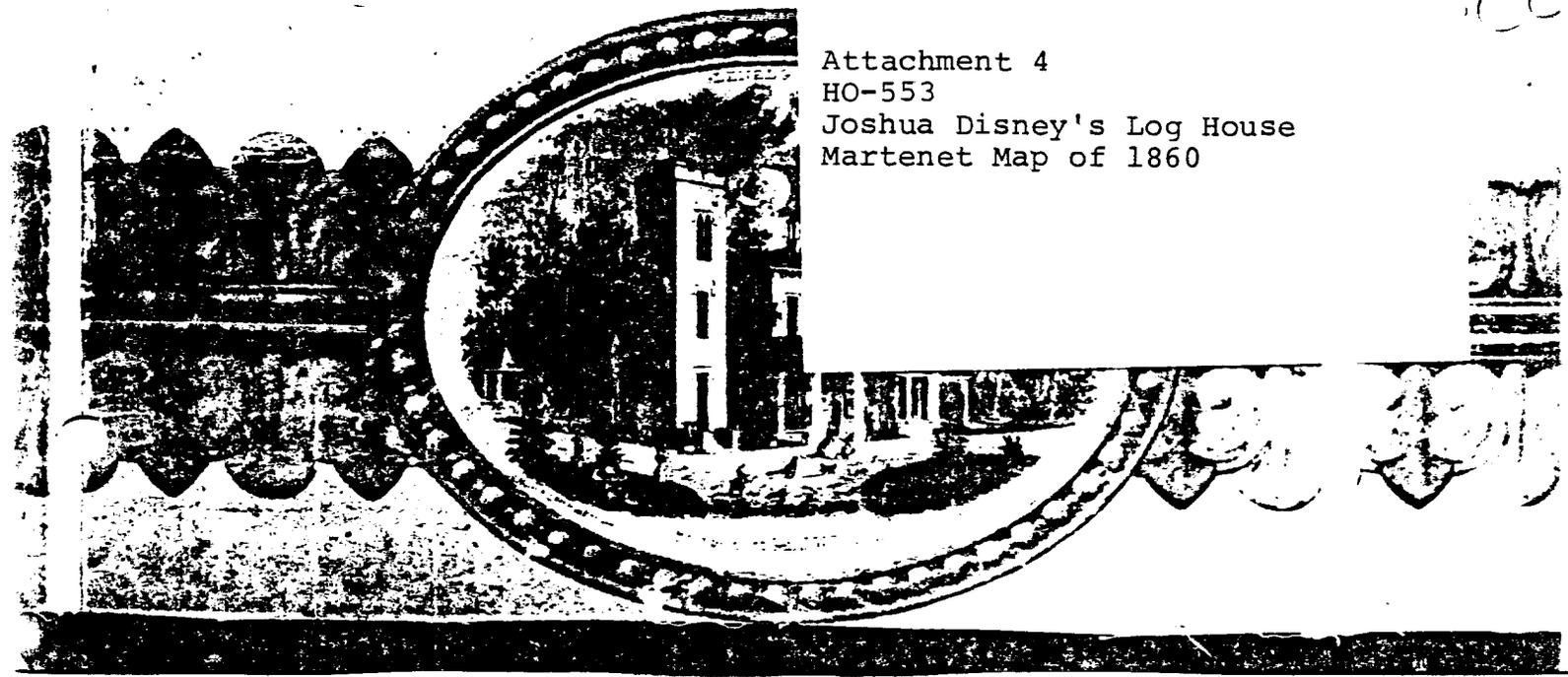


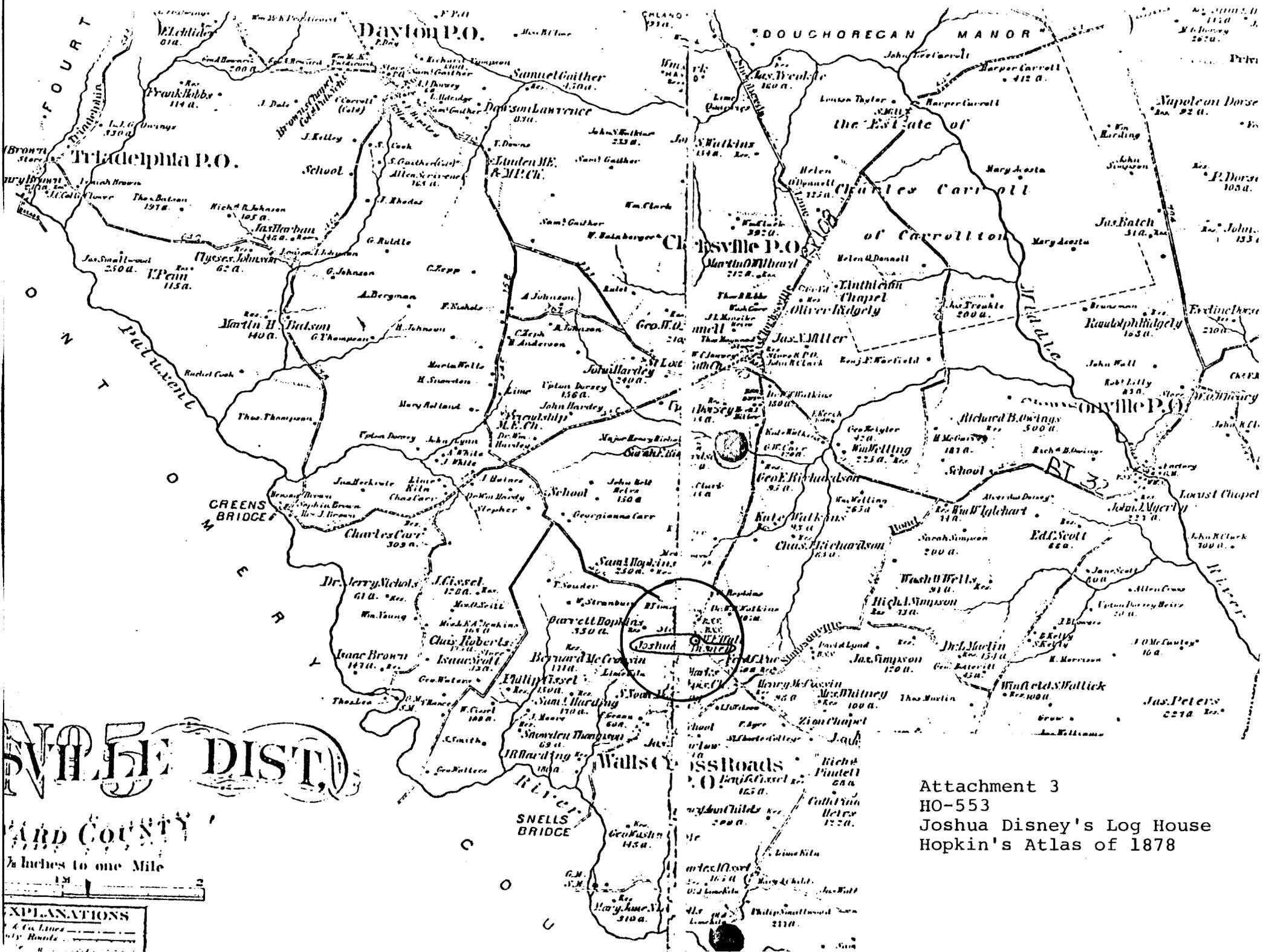
Scale 1 1/2 inches to one mile.



the year 1860 by S. J. Martenet and J. Schofield in the Clerks office of the District Court of Maryland.

Attachment 4  
 HO-553  
 Joshua Disney's Log House  
 Martenet Map of 1860

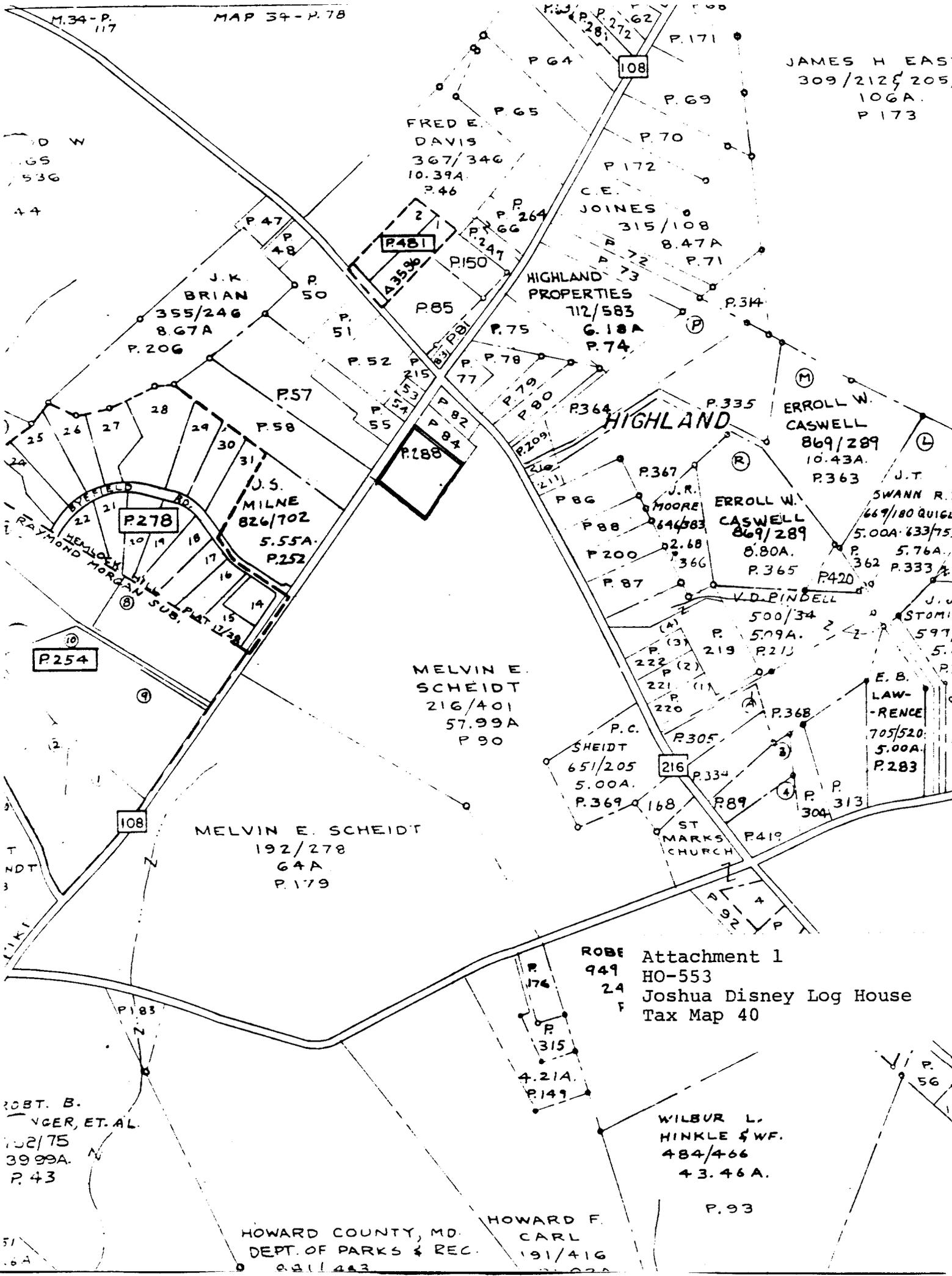




Attachment 3  
 HO-553  
 Joshua Disney's Log House  
 Hopkin's Atlas of 1878

JAMES H EAST  
309/212 & 205,  
106A.  
P.173

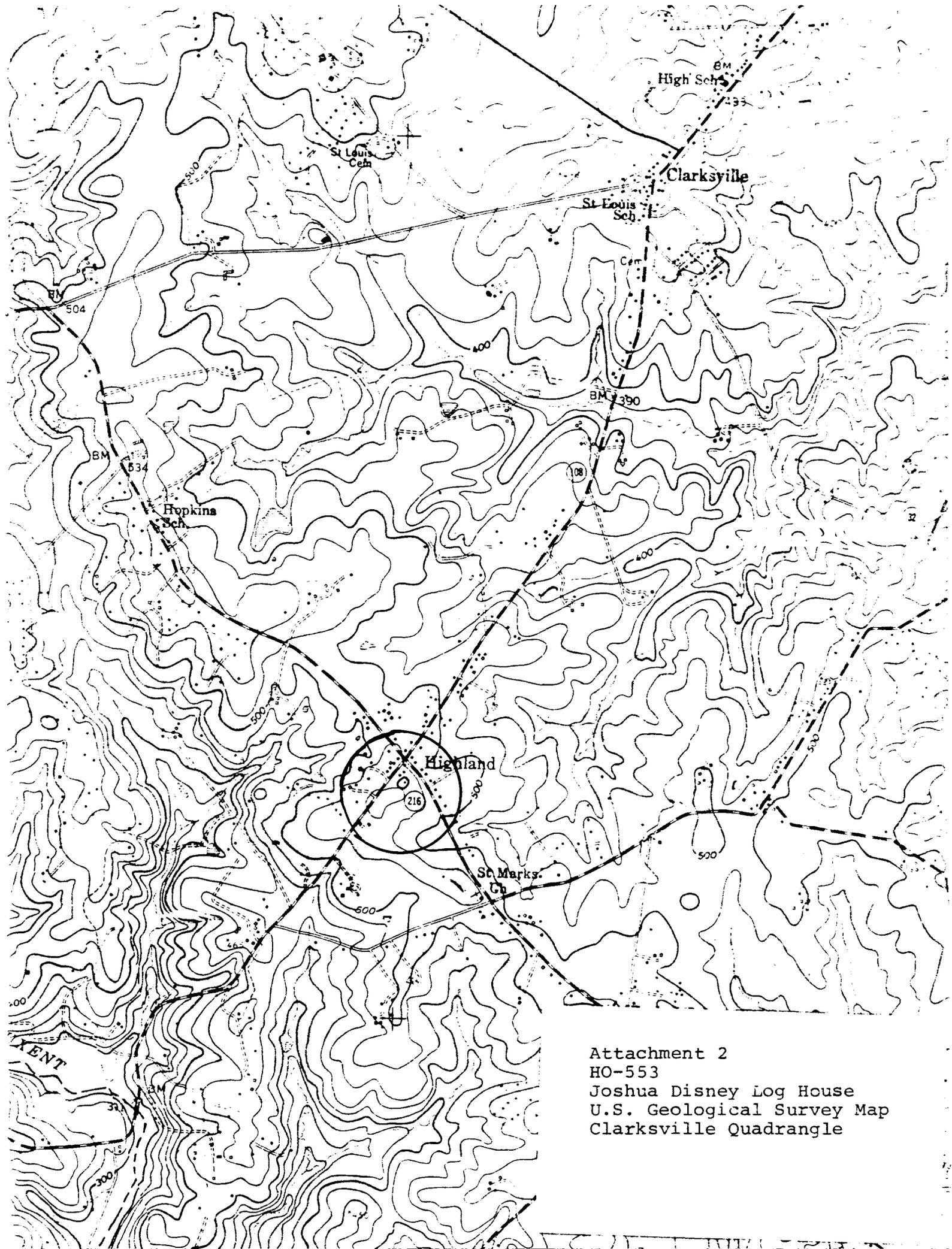
10 W  
165  
536  
44



Attachment 1  
HO-553  
Joshua Disney Log House  
Tax Map 40

ROBT. B.  
INGER, ET. AL.  
152/75  
39.99A. N  
P.43

WILBUR L.  
HINKLE & WF.  
484/466  
43.46A.  
P.93



Attachment 2  
HO-553  
Joshua Disney Log House  
U.S. Geological Survey Map  
Clarksville Quadrangle

HO-553  
Joshua Disney Log House  
13475 Clarksville Pike (MD 108)  
Highland  
Northwest facade  
Jennifer K. Cosham  
April 21, 2004  
Digital color photo on file at MHT



HO-553  
Joshua Disney Log House  
13475 Clarksville Pike (MD 108)  
Highland  
Northwest facade  
Jennifer K. Cosham  
April 21, 2004  
Digital color photo on file at MHT



HO-553  
Joshua Disney Log House  
13475 Clarksville Pike (MD 108)  
Highland  
North elevation  
Jennifer K. Cosham  
April 21, 2004  
Digital color photo on file at MHT



HO-553  
Joshua Disney Log House  
13475 Clarksville Pike (MD 108)  
Highland  
North elevation  
Jennifer K. Cosham  
April 21, 2004  
Digital color photo on file at MHT



HO-553  
Joshua Disney Log House  
13475 Clarksville Pike (MD 108)  
Highland  
West elevation  
Jennifer K. Cosham  
April 21, 2004  
Digital color photo on file at MHT



HO-553  
Joshua Disney Log House  
13475 Clarksville Pike (MD 108)  
Highland  
South elevation  
Jennifer K. Cosham  
April 21, 2004  
Digital color photo on file at MHT





553  
Name: HO-572  
Joshua Disney's Log House  
Location: 13475 Route 108  
Highland, Maryland 20777  
Photographer: Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.  
Date of photograph: June, 1981  
Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust  
View: Northeast  
Photographer looking: Southwest  
Photograph number: 1 of 1