

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: Roby House Survey Number: HO-562

Project: MD 32 from MD 108 to I-70, Howard County Agency: FHWA/SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on the available information, the Roby House, located at 13100 Greenberry Lane, does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria for individual listing. The property is a working farm and has numerous historic and modern buildings, including the stone and frame main house, frame tenant house, frame smoke house, stone horse barn, frame barn, mobile home, and numerous frame and metal sheds. The house was built in several stages, beginning with a small single room stone cottage (c. 1800) which was expanded by a two story stone addition (c. 1822) and a two story frame addition (c. 1900). Extensive and unsympathetic modern alterations, including raising the roof of the stone cottage, have compromised the integrity of the main house. The tenant house, which may date to the late 19th century or early 20th century, has also undergone extensive alterations. The farmstead no longer retains a sense of the original agricultural complex, due to these alterations and the large numbers of non historic buildings. Therefore, the property does not appear to be eligible under Criterion A for agriculture or Criterion C for architecture. The property is not known to have been associated with any significant event. The property has associations with Christian Close and Greenbury Gaither. While the Close and Gaither families had some prominence in Howard County history, there is no known connection to one particular significant member. The property is not located in any known historic district.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project file, Maryland Inventory  
form HO-562

Prepared by: Rita Suffness, Cleora Barnes Thompson

Elizabeth Hannold August 11, 1995  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

Orlando Padaniti Aug. 17, 1995  
Reviewer, NR program Date

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic - Single Dwelling, secondary structure;  
Agriculture - animal facility, agricultural outbuilding

Known Design Source: na

HO-562  
The Roby House  
Clarksville  
Private

Circa 1822

The Roby House is composed of three separate buildings, creating a telescope house or "T" plan, constructed in three separate time frames, which is found on the east side of Linden Church Road.

The earliest building was constructed circa 1800. It is a two bay wide, one room deep, one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) stone building, resting on a stone foundation, composed of one large room, with sleeping loft above.

The second section of the house is dated 1822 on a chimney stone. It is a two bay deep, one room deep, two story high, gable roof (running east-west) stone building, resting on a stone foundation, with wide brick chimney inset into the center of its east wall. Along the west wall of the 1822 stone building still a third section has been constructed. It is a three bay wide, two bay deep, two story high, intersecting gable roof (running north-south) frame section, constructed circa 1900, and resting on a stone foundation. The present owners deepened this two story high building by some six feet along the west elevation, installing a central, rectangular, cross paneled entrance door, flanked by three vertical side lights and surmounted by a three light transom.

The building is associated with Christian Close and the Greenbury Gaither family of Howard County.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Ho-562  
Dist 5  
Clarksville  
MAGI # 1405625304

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

The Roby House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

13100 Linden Church Road

CITY, TOWN

Clarksville

— 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 checked="" 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 & Mrs Thomas O. Roby

Telephone #: 286-2838

STREET & NUMBER

13100 Linden Church Road

CITY, TOWN

Clarksville,

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21029

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

Tax Map 28 blk 9 P.5

Liber #: 261 and 436

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Hall of Records

Folio #: 370 and 488

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

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

The Roby House is composed of three separate buildings, creating a telescope house or "T" plan, constructed in three separate time frames, which is found on the east side of Linden Church Road.

The earliest building was constructed circa 1800. It is a two bay wide, one room deep, one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) stone building, resting on a stone foundation, composed of one large room, with sleeping loft above.

A wide, stone, cooking fireplace is centered on its east wall, surmounted by a wide, hand hewn flat, wooden lintel. It's original hearth stones have been cemented in. An entrance opening and ladder to the loft above were originally located on the south side of this fireplace, but was eliminated when the ceiling was raised two feet five inches (2' 5") from seven (7) feet six (6) inches to almost ten (10) feet and its supporting beams exposed. The room is lighted by a north and south, north bay, rectangular, double-hung window, holding six-over-six lights and by the twelve lights inset into the rectangular north and south, west bay entrances to this section of the house.

The exterior features flat stone lintels over windows, flat stone sills beneath the two square, four light, attic casement windows on the north wall, and fine stone quoining. The interior was in a dilapidated condition when acquired by its present owners, with its interior stone walls covered by chipping plaster. This room is now paneled with vertical red

wood boards.

An open bible and cross paneled entrance door on the south side of the building's west wall leads into the second section of the house, constructed in 1822. It is a two bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east - west) stone building, resting on a stone foundation, with wide brick chimney inset into the center of its east wall. A white soap stone at the base of this brick chimney is inscribed CC, 1822, believed to stand for the builder, Christian Close. Another square brick chimney for the cellar furnace rests north of the central chimney, hidden by a paneled fireplace wall, running from the east wall entrance to the north wall. This section's north and south walls hold two first and second floor, rectangular, double-hung windows, holding six-over-six lights, underlined by flat, wooden sills. Its east wall rises above the gable of the earlier building, holding two square, four light, attic casement windows, underlined by stone sills. This section features an upstairs bedroom and a downstairs dining room. Six inch wide wainscoting and a chair rail is found in the dining room, matching the paneled fireplace wall which holds a closet, (hiding the furnace chimney) and a mantelpiece. The fireplace is constructed of stone with a stretcher stone, flat arched lintel. The floor of the dining room was in such a dilapidated condition that a new, wide random width floor was installed in 1961, which was, taken from an old house in District 6 near Laurel, which once stood at the corner of Sandy Spring Road at Contee Road. The second floor fireplace has been blocked in, providing an uninterrupted east wall with a southeast corner study area. Closets have been constructed on each side of the west wall entrance from the entry hall. The room is lighted by two north and south windows.

These two sections are constructed of the same kind of field stone, believed to have come from an old quarry on the property.

#### THE VICTORIAN FRAME SECTION

Three doors on the first floor, west wall of the 1822 section lead into the three bay wide, two bay deep, two story high, intersecting gable roof (running north-south) frame section, constructed circa 1900 and resting on a stone foundation. The present owners deepened this two story high building by some six feet along the west elevation, installing a central, rectangular, cross paneled entrance door, flanked by three vertical side lights and surmounted by a three light transom, which came from the old house near Laurel, previously mentioned. The balusters, knewel posts and bannister of the present staircase also came from this house and were installed by the Robys circa 1961, replacing a pine paneled, very narrow, pie shaped staircase.

The living room, thus created, is commodious, placed on the south side of the central staircase, while the kitchen maintains its original dimensions, creating an additional breakfast room in the northwest corner of this section of the house.

The second floor features two front bedrooms, with a bath in its southeast corner and a laundry area and closet in its northeast corner.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

HO-562  
District 5  
Clarksville

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 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		(Local history)

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Roby House is a good example of vernacular stone architecture in Howard County<sup>1</sup> and of how two early nineteenth century, attached stone buildings, constructed by 1822, were later joined to a large frame building to create a "T" plan<sup>2</sup>, all of which was enlarged and modified still further in 1961 to create a modern residence, which successfully retained the best character and detail of the original stone complex.<sup>3</sup> The mid-section of the building was constructed in 1822 by Christian Close, who acquired the property from Greenbury Gaither, Susan Close and John O'Donnel some twenty-six years later.<sup>4</sup>

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. These two attached, one and two story high, stone buildings are a good example of how buildings were constructed in the early days of Howard County. They feature the usual wide stone fireplaces of the period, used to both heat the living quarters and to cook the food. The earliest mantle features a wooden lintel, with the later one holding a stretcher stone, flat arched lintel. Both are of the same depth and are two bays wide. Their east walls feature two square; four light, attic, casement windows, underlined by stone sills, another common feature found in these and later buildings. Other windows and doors were surmounted by flat stone lintels. The lintels of the doors were taken out to provide greater height. Floors are similar to the original, wide random width

floors, which were in such a dilapidated state that they had to be replaced.

In the cellar, beneath the 1822, two story high, stone building, log joists can be found.

2. The building complex was further enlarged in 1900 along the west wall of the 1822 stone building and a two story high, three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) frame addition constructed, which created a "T" plan, so often seen in Howard County vernacular architecture in brick and frame, as well as stone.

3. In 1961 the Robys restored the two stone buildings, raising the roofline of the one story high, stone house to create a better proportional alignment between the two sections. In this process the ceiling joists were exposed and the paneling near the fireplace arranged to indicate the original height of the ceiling. In addition, a one story high, shed roofed open porch, the width of the south bay of the frame addition, was constructed along the south elevation of the two stone sections, creating an additional sense of unity of scale, and relationship between all three sections.

Windows were replaced where necessary, as well as interior floors, and a one story high, screened in porch constructed along the north elevation of the two stone sections, projecting beyond the north elevation of the frame section of the house. This porch serves a very useful purpose, protecting the exterior north walls of the stone sections, as well as providing additional living space.

In widening the frame section's west wall, care was taken in the placement and alignment of the door and windows of this facade, so similar to the original that no change can be discerned and the roof aligned to provide the same intersecting gable roof outline as formerly.

The landscaping on the west wall further softens the building line.

4. The chimney stone marked CC1822 is placed in the wide brick chimney of the two story high, stone house and is believed to stand for Christian Close, the builder.

Modest in scale, the building is believed to have been used by a working farmer, rather than a gentleman, although the early buildings in Howard County were all initially of a relatively modest scale.

The largest parcel of 114 acres was acquired by Christian Close on June 17, 1848. On that same day a Susan Close also conveyed 28½ acres of land to him and almost a year later, on April 12, 1849, he acquired an additional 42 acres from Mr. John O'Donnell. On July 12, 1862 a Christian Close willed 140 Acres of this farm to his sister, Barbara Ann Close, who, in turn, in 1892, willed that the property, through her executrix, Barbara Gaither, be divided into twelve equal parts to the following parties. Sarah Gaither, Elizabeth Gaither, Kate Gaither, Georgia Talbott, Ella and Josephine Barnsley, Francis Linthicum, Mary Jane Nicklas, Sarah Iglehart, Henry Hern, Christian Hern, Samuel Hern, Ann Linganfelder and Ida Hanna.

In 1897 Barbara Gaither willed the farm, then comprising some 188 acres of land, to Georgia A. Talbott, her sister, whose son, William E. Talbott sold the property to Thomas O. and Elizabeth R. Roby, the present owners.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Howard County Land Records-  
Interview with Mrs. Roby at her home on September 23, 1980.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 142.30

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 28 blk 9 p. 5

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 261 Folio 370  
Liber 436 Folio 488

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

## TITLE SEARCH

Page 1 of 2

HO-562 THE ROBY HOUSE  
Prepared by Cleora B. Thompson, AICP

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LIBER-FOLIO</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>TRANSACTION</u>
15 Oct. 1959	261-370 (also 436-488)	William E. Talbott & Lenora B. Talbott	Thomas D. & Elizabeth R. Roby	Deed to 3 contiguous parcels
"Georgia Talbott died Nov. 15, 1932, property descended to her only child, William E. Talbott."				
Parcel I				
17 June 1848	8-59	Greenbury Gaither, et al	Christian Close & Barbary Ann Close, his wife	14A 67 sq. roods of land +
Parcel II				
17 June 1848	8-64	Susan Close	Christian Close	28½A +
Parcel III				
12 April 1849	9-18	John O'Donnell &	Christian Close	42 9/10A +
26 December 1897	68-94	Barbara Gaither, Executrix of Barbara Ann Close	Georgia A. Talbott	Deed to above three parcels of land 188 acres +
8 February 1892	Wills 3-410	Barbara A. Close of Baltimore City	Barbara Gaither, Executrix	devised "all that farm of about 188A +" \$3,000 and all Household Furniture

Item 3 - Divide proceeds of such sale into twelve equal  
parts:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1-Sarah Gaither                         | 6-Francis Linthicum  |
| 2-Elizabeth Gaither                     | 7-Mary Jane Nicklas  |
| 3-Kate Gaither                          | 8-Sarah Iglehart   |
| 4-Georgia Talbott                       | 9-Henry Hern   |
| 5-Ella Barnsley &<br>Josephine Barnsley | 10-Christian Hern  |
|   | 11-Samuel Hern   |
|   | 12-Ann Linganfelder & Ida Hama, Children of<br>Susan Hama, when youngest becomes 25 yrs. old |

## TITLE SEARCH

Page 2 of 2

HO-562 THE ROBY HOUSE  
 Prepared by Cleora B. Thompson, AICP

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LIBER-FOLIO</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>TRANSACTION</u>
12 July 1862	Wills 3-432	Christian Close	Barbara A. Close, sister	Devised 140 A <u>±</u>
		Parents	Barbara Ann Close	48A <u>±</u>
22 June 1848	8-59	Greenbury Gaither & Catherine & Aetemas Hearn & Elizabeth	Christian & Barbary A. Close	114A for \$2500.00
22 June 1848	8-64	Susan Close	Christian Close	28½ A for \$400.00
	P/O "Altogether" and "Good Range"			
11 April 1849	9-18	John O'Donnell & Mary O'Donnell	Christian Close	42A for \$429.00
	P/O "land called 'Altogether'" "together with all and singular the buildings, etc."			
3 February 1845	5-406	Richard Thompson & Rebecca, Greenbury Gaither and Christian Close	Susan Close	28 A <u>±</u> for \$400.00
	"Altogether" and "Good Range"			

NORTH  
→

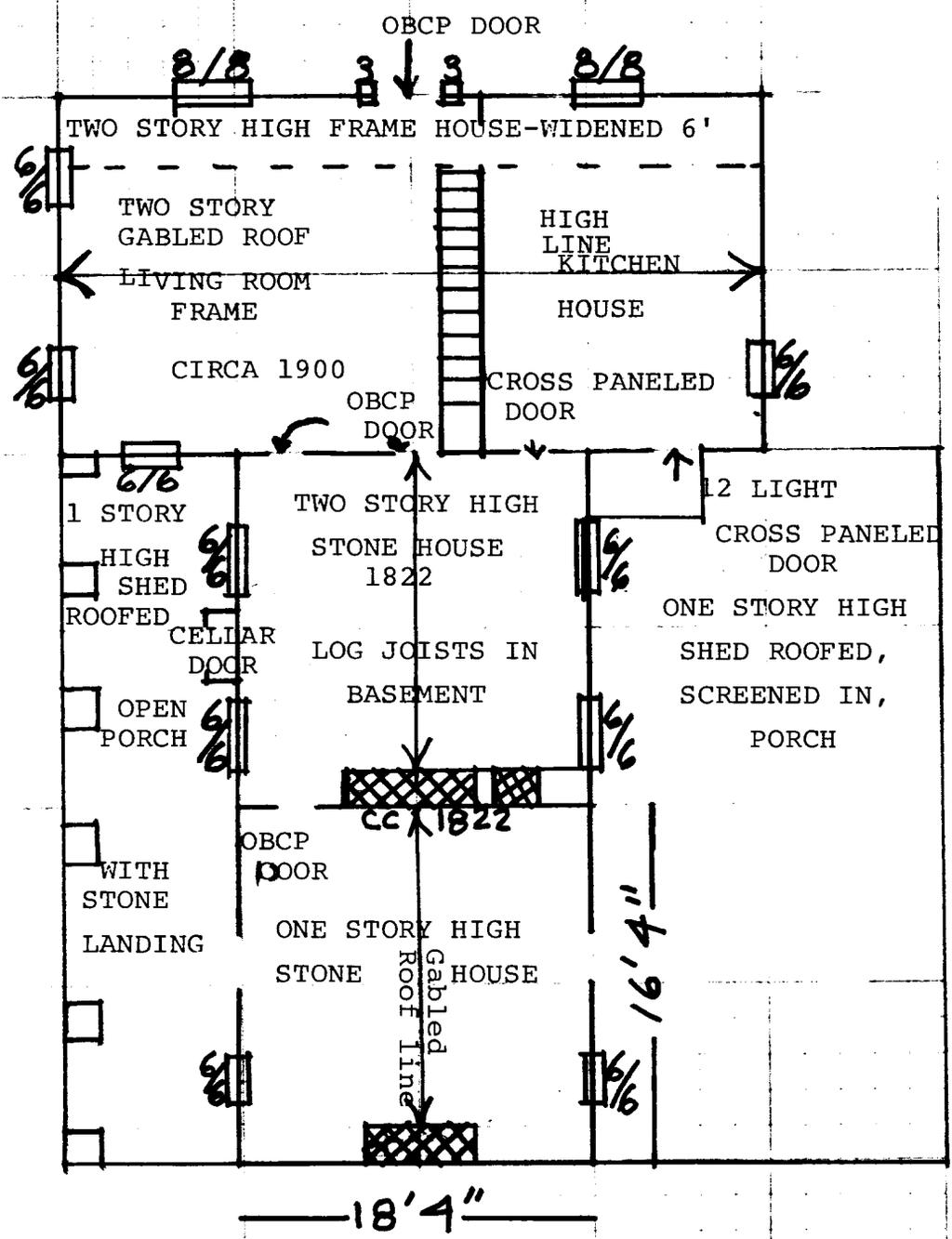
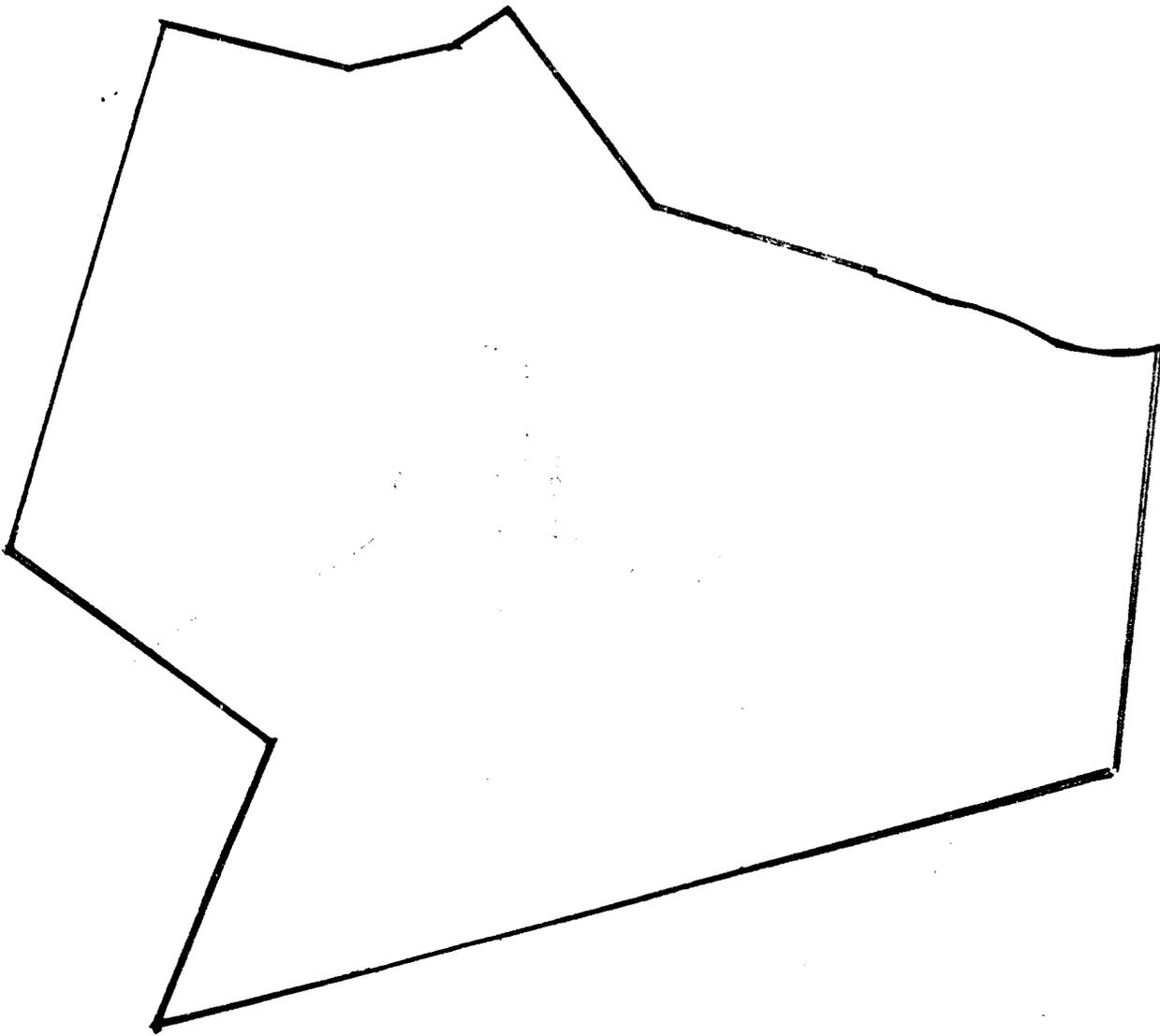
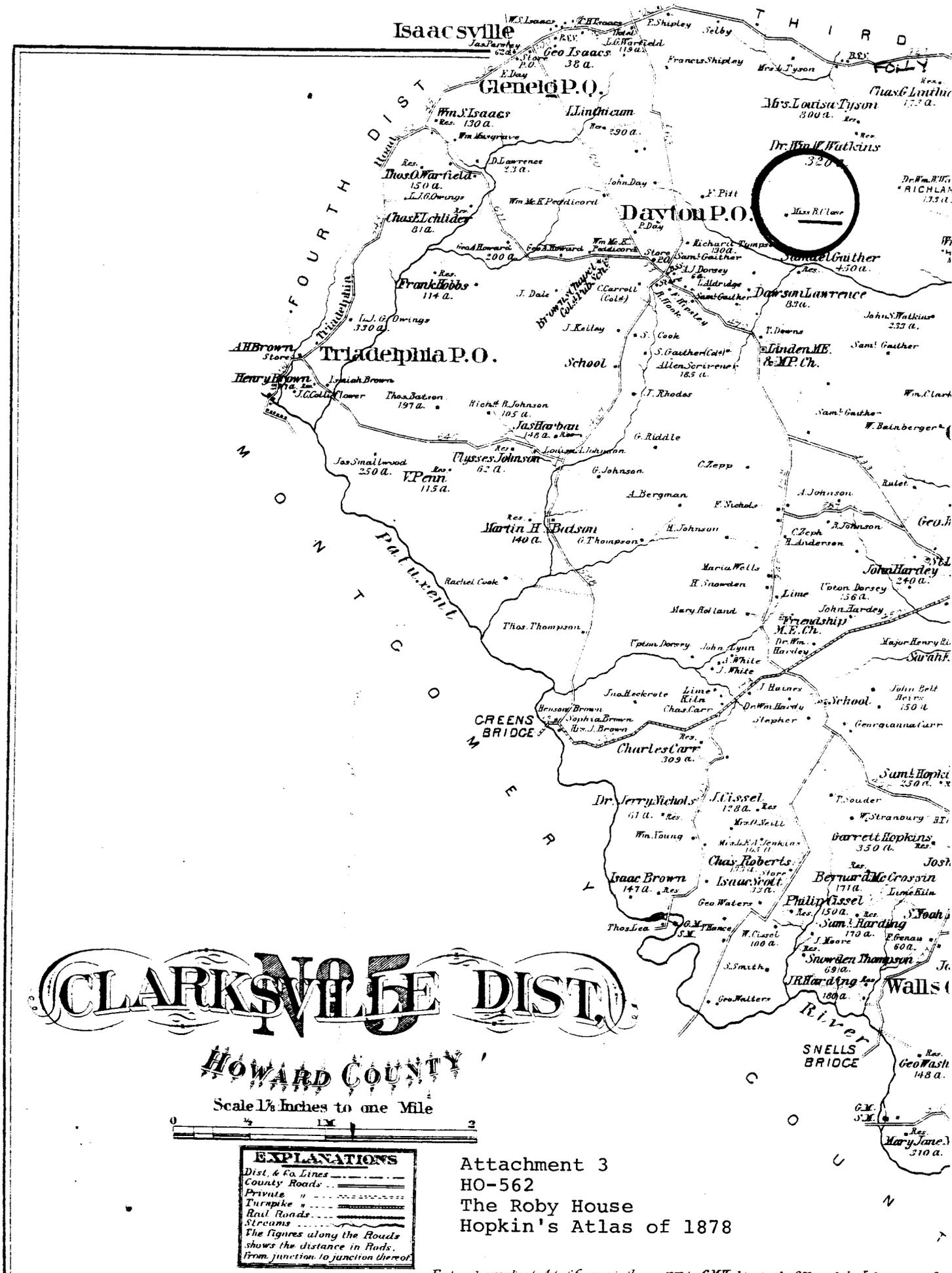


FIGURE 1  
HO-562  
THE ROBY HOUSE  
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



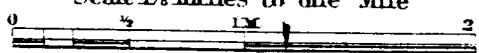
Attachment 1  
HO-562  
The Roby House  
Tax Map 28



# CLARKSVILLE DIST.

HOWARD COUNTY

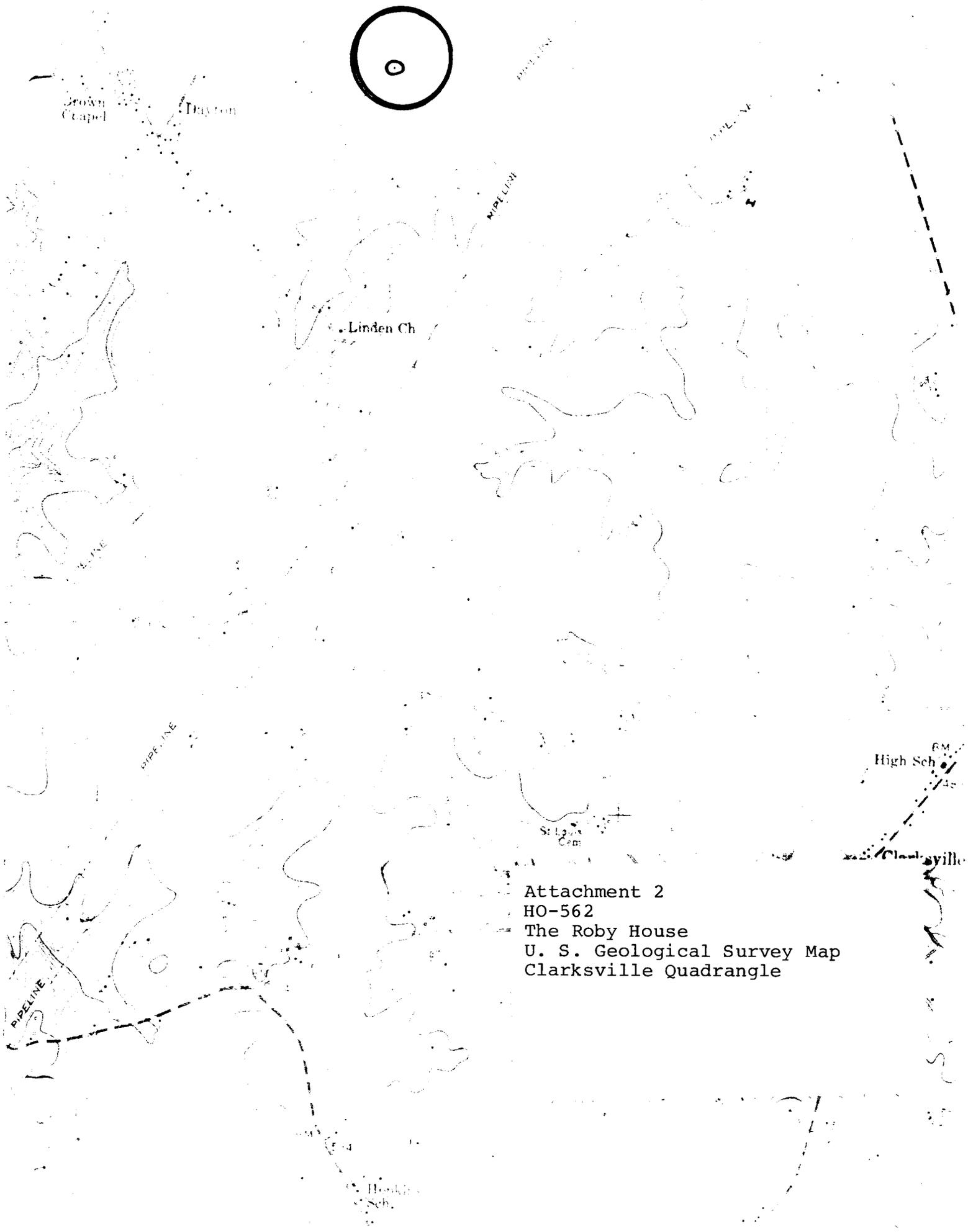
Scale 1/2 Inches to one Mile



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

Attachment 3  
 HO-562  
 The Roby House  
 Hopkin's Atlas of 1878

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1878 by G.M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress



Attachment 2  
HO-562  
The Roby House  
U. S. Geological Survey Map  
Clarksville Quadrangle



**Name:** The Roby House

HO-562

**Location:** 13100 Linden Church Lane  
Clarksville, Maryland

**Photographer:** Cleora B. Thompson, A.I.C.P.

**Date of Photograph:** September, 1980

**Negatives in possession of the Maryland Historical Trust**

**View:** southwest

**Photographer looking:** northeast

**Photograph number:** 1 of 1