

HO-1012

The Schmeltz Building
7981 Old Jessup Road, Jessup
Private

Description:

The Schmeltz Building faces east toward the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks in Jessup. It is a two-story, five-bay by five-bay U-plan frame building with aluminum siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The center has a north-south ridge while the south bay and the two north bays have east-west ridges forming cross-wings. There is a brick chimney in the center bay of the building, east of the ridge. There is a one-bay by one-bay, one-story shed-roofed addition on the north elevation. The east elevation north-center bay has a two-story, one-bay addition that projects to the east one bay and has a gable roof with an east-west ridge. There is a pent roof over part of the south bay and the south-center and center bays. The west elevation has the center three bays recessed on the first story, and second story of these three bays appears to be an enclosed porch with three large single-light fixed sash in the same plane as the end bays.

Significance:

The Schmeltz Building was likely built shortly after 1897, when Elizabeth Schmeltz, wife of shoemaker John Schmeltz, bought the lot from Catherine Anderson, widow of Joshua Anderson, for \$600. The building, which faces toward the railroad tracks rather than the road, reads as a commercial building oriented to the railroad. It is closer to residential buildings, but rather large, like a hotel or boardinghouse. Such a function would have a close connection with a railroad stop. Perhaps significantly, the Schmeltzes also had three boarders living with them in 1900. It is difficult to read the occupation entries for Schmeltz and his family in the 1910 census. John Schmeltz's occupation appears to be "Employee in Station as [illegible]," and it may refer to "R.R." The occupation of his wife, Elizabeth, seems to be "Store Keeper also Boarding House on [B & O R?]." The boarding house may have been opened by 1900, but the Schmeltzes may have done this in their home before building a new boarding house. If so, this would suggest that the building was built shortly after 1900.

7. Description

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Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary:

The Schmeltz Building faces east toward the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks in Jessup. It is a two-story, five-bay by five-bay U-plan frame building with aluminum siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The center has a north-south ridge while the south bay and the two north bays have east-west ridges forming cross-wings. There is a brick chimney in the center bay of the building, east of the ridge. There is a one-bay by one-bay, one-story shed-roofed addition on the north elevation. The east elevation north-center bay has a two-story, one-bay addition that projects to the east one bay and has a gable roof with an east-west ridge. There is a pent roof over part of the south bay and the south-center and center bays. The west elevation has the center three bays recessed on the first story, and second story of these three bays appears to be an enclosed porch with three large single-light fixed sash in the same plane as the end bays.

Description:

The Schmeltz Building is located at 7981 Old Jessup Road, at the northwest corner of the intersection of the road with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks, in Jessup, in eastern Howard County, Maryland. The building faces east toward the railroad tracks, and is a two-story, five-bay by five-bay U-plan frame building with aluminum siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The center has a north-south ridge while the south bay and the two north bays have east-west ridges forming cross-wings. There is a brick chimney in the center bay of the building, east of the ridge. There is a one-bay by one-bay, one-story shed-roofed addition on the north elevation.

The east elevation has a one-over-one sash in the south bay, a new six-panel door in the south-center bay, no opening in the center bay, a four-over-four sash in the north-center bay, and a one-over-one sash in the north bay. The north-center bay has a two-story, one-bay addition that projects to the east one bay and has a gable roof with an east-west ridge. There is a pent roof over part of the south bay and the south-center and center bays. The second story has a two-over-two sash in the south bay, with a vent in the gable end above. The south-center bay has paired one-over-one sash. The center and north bays each have a single one-over-one sash. The addition in the north-center bay has no opening on the second story. The north gable end has a vent.

On the south elevation the first story was not visible. The second story has single one-over-one sash in the west, center, and east bays and paired one-over-one sash in the other two bays. The west elevation has the center three bays recessed on the first story, with new doors in the north-center and north bays and paired one-over-one sash in the south-center bay. There is a new pent roof over these three bays. The second story of these three bays appears to be an enclosed porch with three large single-light fixed sash in the same plane as the end bays. The north and south bays are identical, with a one-over-one sash on both the first and second stories and a vent in the gable end. The north elevation is four bays, and the

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addition in the east bay is not clearly visible. The other three bays of the first story and all four bays of the second story appear to have one-over-one sash.

8. Significance

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| Period | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000- | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> social history |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime history | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ |

Specific dates N/A Architect/Builder N/A

Construction dates c. 1897-1905

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Summary:

The Schmeltz Building was likely built shortly after 1897, when Elizabeth Schmeltz, wife of shoemaker John Schmeltz, bought the lot from Catherine Anderson, widow of Joshua Anderson, for \$600. The building, which faces toward the railroad tracks rather than the road, reads as a commercial building oriented to the railroad. It is closer to residential buildings, but rather large, like a hotel or boardinghouse. Such a function would have a close connection with a railroad stop. Perhaps significantly, the Schmeltzes also had three boarders living with them in 1900. It is difficult to read the occupation entries for Schmeltz and his family in the 1910 census. John Schmeltz's occupation appears to be "Employee in Station as [illegible]," and it may refer to "R.R." The occupation of his wife, Elizabeth, seems to be "Store Keeper also Boarding House on [B & O R?]." The boarding house may have been opened by 1900, but the Schmeltzes may have done this in their home before building a new boarding house. If so, this would suggest that the building was built shortly after 1900.

Significance:

The Schmeltz Building was likely built shortly after 1897, when Elizabeth Schmeltz, wife of shoemaker John Schmeltz, bought the lot from Catherine Anderson, widow of Joshua Anderson, for \$600. Both of the Schmeltzes were born in Maryland to German parents who probably fled their homeland after the 1848 revolution. The price of the property is low enough to suggest that there were few or no real improvements to the property, certainly not a building the size of what stands there today. The building, which faces toward the railroad tracks rather than the road, reads as a commercial building oriented to the railroad. At small stops railroads would lease space for a station in an existing building, or arrange for someone to build a store or warehouse in which they could lease the needed space. Whether this may have been the purpose of Schmeltz's building is not certain. The 1860 Martenet *Map of Howard County* does not show a station at what was then called Pierceland, but the 1878 *Atlas of Howard County* shows a station on the west side of the tracks, south of the Jessup Road; this could have been replaced twenty years later, but nothing could be discovered regarding

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stations in Jessup. Marie Biggs' history of Jessup does not mention a store in this location. Though Schmeltz was a shoemaker, this structure is not particularly industrial in character, especially for the end of the nineteenth century. It is closer to residential buildings, but rather large, like a hotel or boardinghouse. Such a function would have a close connection with a railroad stop. Perhaps significantly, the Schmeltzes also had three boarders living with them in 1900, all men in their late twenties to early thirties and employed as a broom maker, a shirt maker, and a blacksmith. The boarders were clearly not affiliated with Schmeltz's business, since their occupations were not connected to shoemaking.¹

It is difficult to read the occupation entries for Schmeltz and his family in the 1910 census. John Schmeltz's occupation appears to be "Employee in Station as [illegible]," and it may refer to "R.R." The occupation of his wife, Elizabeth, seems to be "Store Keeper also Boarding House on [B & O R?]." Their oldest son, John F., appears to be an "Employee in [illegible] House." Thus, it would seem that Schmeltz chose to change careers from shoemaking, which he was still following in 1900, to running a station and store and boarding house with the help of his wife and son. The boarding house may have been opened by 1900, judging from the census, and Schmeltz might have kept his job to insure income until the new business was successfully established. However, it was not unusual for families to take in a boarder or two for additional income. The Schmeltzes may have done this in their home before building a new boarding house. If so, this would suggest that the building was built shortly after 1900 and, if the deciphering of the census is accurate, must have been purpose-built for all of these uses. The 1910 census does not list any boarders with the Schmeltzes, perhaps because they were no longer living in the Schmeltzes home, but in a building designed to accommodate boarders. The store that Elizabeth Schmeltz kept was probably operated out of one room of the boarding house, and the station could have been located in the building, too.²

Elizabeth Schmeltz willed the property to her son, William, in 1922, and he sold it in 1928 to John and Elizabeth O'Lexey. John O'Lexey was a native of Montana and in 1930 was working as a chauffeur for the state. It is not known whether he and his family were taking over the businesses the Schmeltzes had operated, or whether the building changed uses. In 1932 O'Lexey "rebuilt a model 'A' Ford as a hose truck for the Maryland House of Correction," and this spurred the formation of the Jessup Volunteer Fire Department. The organization formed the same year and elected O'Lexey its chief, a position he retained until 1958. The O'Lexeys owned the Schmeltz property until 1944.³

¹ U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 1, Howard County, Maryland, 1900. Simon J. Martenet, *Martenet's Map of Howard County, Maryland* (Baltimore, 1860). G. Marie Biggs, *The Story of Jessup*, Author, 1977. G. M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Howard County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, 1878).

² U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 1, Howard County, Maryland, 1910.

³ Biggs, *The Story of Jessup*, p. 51.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See footnotes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .24 A
Acreage of historical setting .24 A
Quadrangle name Savage Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the property lines for tax map 43, parcel 323, which encompasses all of the historic structures on the property.

11. Form Prepared by

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|---------------|
| name/title | Ken Short | | |
| organization | Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning | date | February 2010 |
| street & number | 3430 Courthouse Drive | telephone | 410-313-4335 |
| city or town | Ellicott City | state | Maryland |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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.

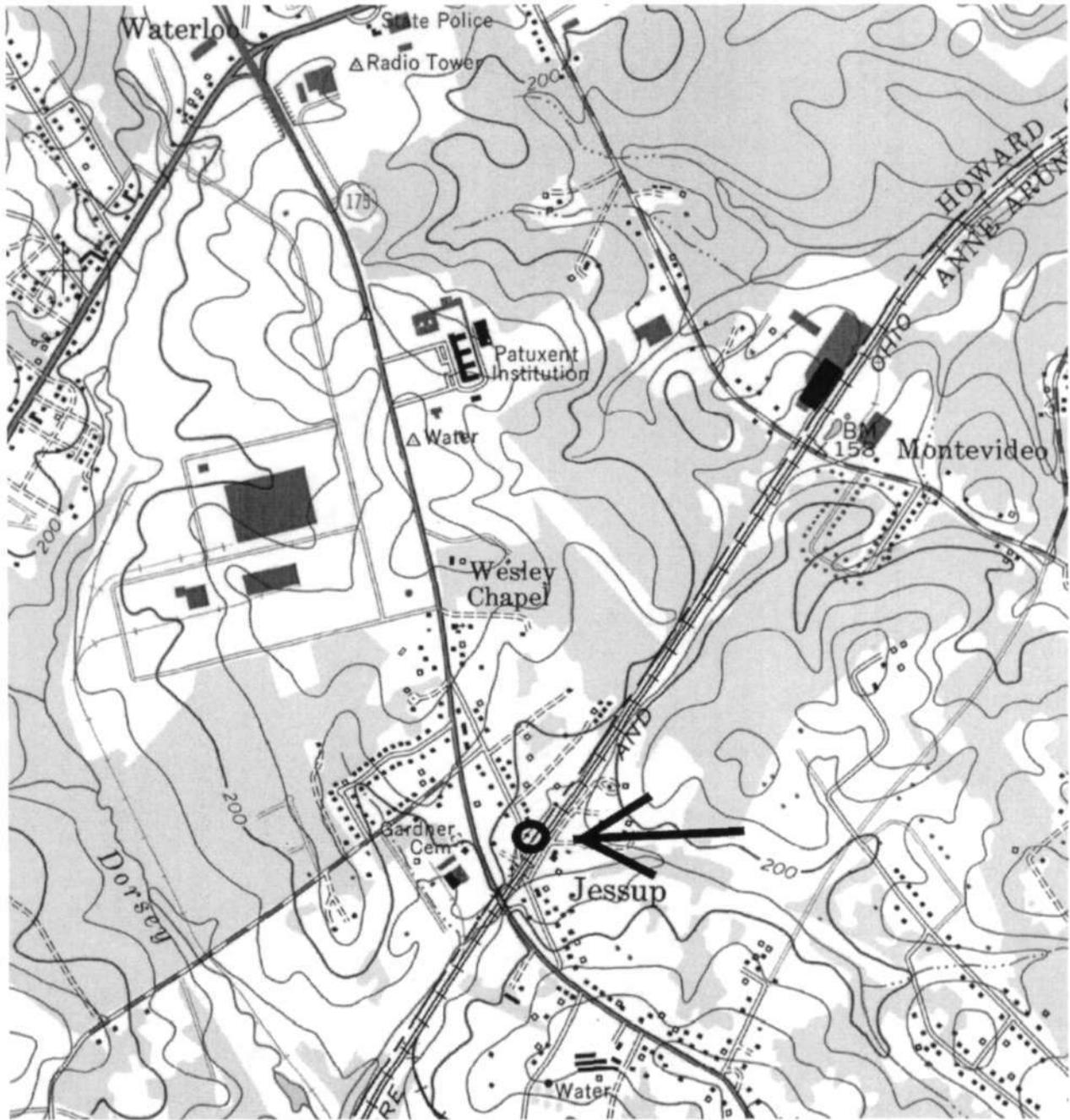
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

The Schmeltz Building (HO-1012)
7981 Old Jessup Road
CHAIN OF TITLE

| GRANTOR/HOME | GRANTEE/HOME | DATE | LIBER/ FOLIO | INSTRU- MENT | CONSIDER- ATION | ACREAGE | NOTES |
|--|---|------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--|
| John A. Lally, Exchange Accommodation Title Holder/? | Badi Nabely, Trustee for Nabely Family Living Trust/? | 4/1/2009 | MDR 12251-209 | Deed – Fee Simple | \$0 | 10,555 sq. ft. -.02 A | Exchanged with 7708 Cross St., Lanham, MD |
| Kyung S. Choi/? | John A. Lally, Exchange Accommodation Title Holder/? | 1/10/2008 | MDR 11260-51 | Deed – Fee Simple | \$315,000 | 10,555 sq. ft. -.02 A | [no previous reference] |
| Gerald Sewell/? | Kyung S. Choi/? | 8/13/2004 | MDR 8576-673 | Deed – Fee Simple | \$270,000 | 10,555 sq. ft. -.02 A | [no previous reference] |
| Barbara Ann & William Ronald Meyers/? | Gerald Sewell/? | 12/18/2003 | MDR 8023-351 | Deed – Fee Simple | \$140,000 | 10,555 sq. ft. -.02 A | [no previous reference] |
| Luther E. & Lois D. Ball/? | William Ronald & Barbara Ann Meyers (H/W)? | 9/12/1994 | MDR 3354-501 | Deed – Fee Simple | \$40,000 | 10,555 sq. ft. -.02 A | 7981 & 7991 ½ Old Jessup Road |
| Carl L. Canterbury, Joseph A. Horak & Amma J. Horak/? | Luther E. & Lois D. Ball (H/W)? | 10/4/1993 | MDR 3191-669 | Deed – Fee Simple | \$50,000 | 10,555 sq. ft. -.02 A | |
| Nancy L. Canterbury/? | Carl L. Canterbury/? | 5/5/1983 | CMP 1159-176 | Deed – Fee Simple | \$0 | 10,555 sq. ft. -.02 A | ½ interest |
| Laurel Building Association of Prince Georges County/MD | Carl L. & Nancy L. Canterbury (H/W) Joseph A. & Anna J. Horak(H/W)? | 11/14/1973 | CMP 661-292 | Corporate Deed – Fee Simple | \$10.00 | 10,555 sq. ft. -.02 A | See Equity 8656 |
| Roger A. Clapp, Atty/? | Laurel Building Assoc. of P.G. County/MD | 8/16/1973 | CMP 661-289 | Deed – Fee Simple | \$7,000 | 10,555 sq. ft. -.02 A | Public sale 5/23/1973 title of Rexcel & Jean Zickefoose |
| Laurel Building Assoc. of P.G. County/MD | Rexcel T. & Jean M. Zickefoose(H/W)? | 5/19/1969 | CMP 510-1 | Deed – Fee Simple | \$1.00 | 10,555 sq. ft. -.02 A | |
| Roger A. Clapp, assignee of mortgage/Balto. City | Laurel Building Assoc. of P.G. County/MD | 1/16/1969 | CMP 503-15 | Deed – Fee Simple | \$5,600 | 10,555 sq. ft. -.02 A | Sold 11/10/1968 Mortgage 269-333 Equity 7274 |
| John W. & Helen A. Miller (H/W)? | Laurel Building Assoc. of P.G. County/MD | 6/29/1955 | RHM 269-333 | Mortgage | \$12,000 | 10,555 sq. ft. -.02 A | |
| Philander B. Briscoe committee of estate of Mary E. Sullivan/Balto. City | John W. & Helen A. Miller (H/W)/Jessup | 7/21/1947 | MWB 199-236 | Deed – Fee Simple | \$1,000 | 10,555 sq. ft. | Briscoe was authorized to purchase hereinafter ground rent as investment plat by Guy Sykes. Supposed to be recorded with deed- isn't |
| John H. O'Lexey & wife Elizabeth/A.A. | John W. & Helen A. Miller (H/W)/A.A. | 10/10/1944 | BM, Jr. 183-111 | Deed | \$5.00 | 10,555 sq. ft. | Survey by Sykes 7/10/1928. Subject to \$60/yr. rent |

The Schmeltz Building (HO-1012)
 7981 Old Jessup Road
 CHAIN OF TITLE

| GRANTOR/HOME | GRANTEE/HOME | DATE | LIBER/ FOLIO | INSTRU- MENT | CONSIDER- ATION | ACREAGE | NOTES |
|--|---|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---|
| John H. O'Lexey & wife Elizabeth/A.A. | Helen B. Bornefeld, unmarried/ Balto. City | 5/13/1942 | BM, Jr. 174-454 | Lease | \$60/yr. for 99 years | 10,555 sq. ft. | |
| John H. O'Lexey & wife Elizabeth/ A.A. | Philander B. Briscoe committee of estate of Mary E. Sullivan/Balto. City | 5/13/1942 | BM, Jr. 174-456 | Deed | \$5.00 | 10,555 sq. ft. | |
| Helen B. Bornefeld, unmarried/Balto. City | John H. O'Lexey/A.A. | 5/13/1942 | BM, Jr. 174-458 | Deed | \$5.00 | 10,555 sq. ft. | Subject to \$60/year rent |
| William H. Schmeltz & wife Etta M./ Balto. City | John H. O'Lexey & wife Elizabeth/Howard | 7/21/1928 | HSK 134-335 | Deed - Fee Simple | \$5.00 | 10,555 sq. ft. | Lot 1 on plat with will of John W. Schmeltz MFB 7-21, 5/17/1927 |
| Elizabeth Schmeltz | William H. Schmeltz | Probated 4/11/1922 | <u>Wills</u> | Bequest | | | |
| Catherine A. Anderson, widow/Howard | Elizabeth Schmeltz, wife of John Schmeltz/A.A. | 11/26/1897 | JHO 68-56 | Deed - Fee Simple | \$600 | 120 sq. p. | p/o below |
| Joshua Anderson | Catherine A. Anderson | 1/10/1886 | <u>Wills</u> TBN 2-649 | Bequest | | | |
| Louis Gassaway, trustee | Joshua Anderson | 1/31/1852 | | | | | |



HO-1012
The Schmeltz Building
7981 Old Jessup Road
Savage quad

HO-1012
The Schmeltz Building
7981 Old Jessup Road, Jessup
Howard County, Maryland
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera
HP Premium Plus paper
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-1012_2010-01-27_01
East elevation

HO-0062_2010-01-27_02
South elevation

HO-0062_2010-01-27_03
West elevation



HO-1012

7981 Old Jessup Road, Jessup
Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Jan 27, 2010

MD SHPS

East Elevation

1/3



HO-1012

7981 Old Jessup Road, Jessup
Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Jan 27, 2010

MD SHPO

South Elevation

2/3



FD-693

HO-1012

7981 Old Jessup Road, Jessup
Howard County, MD

Ken Short

Jan. 27, 2010

MD SHPO

West Elevation

3/3