

HO-1072
Humphrey-Davies House
1526 Grooms Lane, Woodstock
Private

Description

The Humphrey-Davies House is a 2 ½-story, three-bay by two bay frame structure with aluminum siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northeast-southwest ridge. There is a two-story, one-bay by one-bay ell on the southeast elevation, at the east end. This is set on the hill, so the basement level is exposed. It has the same materials as the main block, and the gable ridge runs northwest-southeast. There is an interior brick chimney centered on the ridge of the ell. The northwest elevation has a door in the center bay of the first story. There is a three-bay hipped roof porch that covers the center and north bays and wraps around the northeast side. It has turned posts and sawn brackets. There is a central gabled wall dormer, or cross-gable, with an octagonal oculus that also appears to be new. The southwest elevation has a modern two-car garage attached.

Significance

The Humphrey-Davies House sits on parts of lots 9 and 10 of the development platted out for E. A. Benzinger and wife and known originally as Woodstock Heights. Though most of the lots were developed between 1895 and 1905, these two must have remained unimproved, since they were purchased in 1910 for only \$400 by local store owner George Humphrey. Humphrey owned other property on the heights and down near the railroad tracks, and acted as a small, local developer in Woodstock. That seems to have been his role with this house, too. Humphrey probably built the dwelling within a few years of purchasing the land, and the building is remarkably similar to the other houses on Grooms Lane, even though it is later. In 1921 he sold the property to Janet Davies, who was apparently a single woman. Humphrey either rented the house out to full-time tenants, or possibly to residents from Baltimore looking to escape the heat during the summer. Davies could not be located in the census, so it is not known whether she was living here or renting it out and using the income to provide for herself. It would have been unusual for a single woman to be living on her own in this period, but not unusual for her to own real estate as an investment. If she lived here, this would make the house more significant for its social history. When she died in 1938 Davies was residing in Baltimore, though this might have been a recent move due to ill health.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-1072

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Humphrey-Davies House

other _____

2. Location

street and number 1526 Grooms Lane not for publication

city, town Woodstock vicinity

county Howard

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name David & Sandra Hall

street and number 1526 Grooms Lane telephone _____

city, town Woodstock state MD zip code 21163

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 917 folio 633

city, town Ellicott City tax map 10 tax parcel 127 tax ID number _____

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				<u>0</u>	

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-1072

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.

The Humphrey-Davies House is located at 1526 Grooms Lane in Woodstock in north-central Howard County, Maryland. The house is located on a small lot on the northeast side of the sharp bend in the road, at the edge of a steep hill that slopes down to the northeast toward Woodstock Road. The house faces northwest, toward 1511 Grooms Lane.

The house is a 2 ½-story, three-bay by two bay frame structure with aluminum siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northeast-southwest ridge. There is a two-story, one-bay by one-bay ell on the southeast elevation, at the east end. This is set on the hill, so the basement level is exposed. It has the same materials as the main block, and the gable ridge runs northwest-southeast. There is an interior brick chimney centered on the ridge of the ell.

The northwest elevation has a door in the center bay of the first story, with a new one-over-one sash, which has faux blinds, to each side. There is a three-bay hipped roof porch that covers the center and north bays and wraps around the northeast side. It has turned posts and sawn brackets. The second story has three new one-over-one sash with faux blinds. There is a central gabled wall dormer, or cross-gable, with an octagonal oculus that also appears to be new.

The southwest elevation has a modern two-car garage attached, and there is no opening in the gable end. The northeast elevation of the main block has a single new sash on the first and second stories and no opening in the gable end. The ell also has a single new one-over-one sash on each story, and a window in the basement. The southeast elevation of the ell has a shortened window on the first story and a new one-over-one sash on the second story. There is an enclosed porch on the southwest side of the ell. On the southeast elevation of the main block, the south bay has no opening on the first story and has a new one-over-one sash on the second story.

There are no other buildings on the property.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-1072

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" 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. 1910-15

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.)

The Humphrey-Davies House sits on parts of lots 9 and 10 of the development platted out for E. A. Benzinger and wife and known originally as Woodstock Heights. Though most of the lots were developed between 1895 and 1905, these two must have remained unimproved, since they were purchased in 1910 for only \$400 by local store owner George Humphrey. Humphrey owned other property on the heights and down near the railroad tracks, and acted as a small, local developer in Woodstock. That seems to have been his role with this house, too. Humphrey probably built the dwelling within a few years of purchasing the land, and the building is remarkably similar to the other houses on Grooms Lane, even though it is later. In 1921 he sold the property to Janet Davies, who was apparently a single woman. Humphrey either rented the house out to full-time tenants, or possibly to residents from Baltimore looking to escape the heat during the summer. Davies could not be located in the census, so it is not known whether she was living here or renting it out and using the income to provide for herself. It would have been unusual for a single woman to be living on her own in this period, but not unusual for her to own real estate as an investment. If she lived here, this would make the house more significant for its social history. When she died in 1938 Davies was residing in Baltimore, though this might have been a recent move due to ill health. She had no children, and her siblings sold the property to Meredith and Evelyn Crum in 1940. It changed hands in 1945, and then two years later was purchased by Herbert and Eleanora Crum, who remained there until 1971.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-1072

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.73 A
Acreage of historical setting 3.22 A
Quadrangle name ~~Sykesville~~ Ellicott City Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the outlines of the property, tax map 10, parcel 127, which encompasses all of the historic buildings and features on the site.

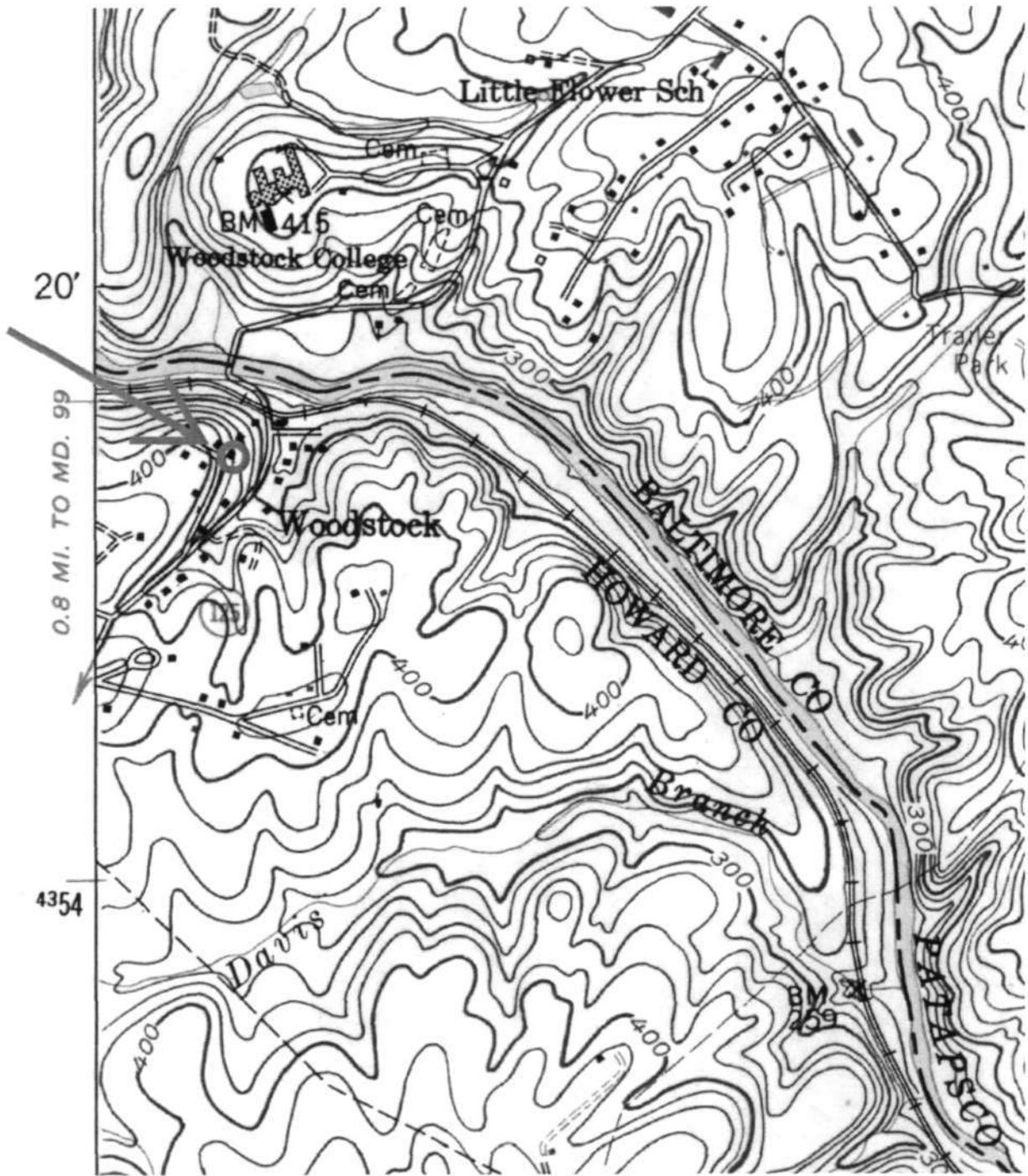
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	February 2012
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

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



HO-1072
Humphrey-Davies House
1526 Grooms Lane
Ellicott City quad

HO-1072
Humphrey-Davies House
1526 Grooms Lane
Howard County, Maryland
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

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

HO-1072_2011-11-02_01
Northwest elevation



H0-1072

Humphrey-Davies House

1526 Grooms Lane

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-11-02

MD SHPO

Northwest elevation

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