

HO-1079

Jones-Stromberg House  
8523 High Ridge Road  
Private

**Description:**

The Jones-Stromberg House is a 1 ½-story, four-bay by one-bay frame bungalow with a rubble stone foundation on the west end and the east end foundation is covered and not visible for examination. There is aluminum siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge. The north elevation has a concrete porch deck and brick piers with four wood Tuscan columns. The porch roof is nearly flat. The first story has a picture window in the east bay that covers nearly half of the house, a six-over-one sash in the east-center and west bays, and a door in the west-center bay that has four lights over three lying panels. There is a shed-roofed dormer with three three-over-one sash. The interior has one room in the three bays to the west, one room in the east bay, a long room with a modern kitchen in the southwest, and a bathroom and vestibule in the southeast. The northwest room has a closed-stringer stair on the west wall that ascends to the south, and the walls have paneling over drywall over logs. The upper story is four chambers, one in each corner, with no passages. The northwest chamber walls are log to the height of the eaves on all four sides.

**Significance:**

The Jones-Stromberg House was one of several buildings owned by Rezin Jones, a farmer who lived and worked in the vicinity of Jonestown, just north of Ellicott City. Jones almost certainly never lived in this house, but must have lived in one of the buildings he owned right up on Rogers Avenue. This house, in the nineteenth century, was a simple log cabin with one room down and one room up, with exposed logs and most likely a large cooking fireplace at the east end, with a winder stair tucked into the southeast corner next to the fireplace. This was probably a slave quarter or a tenant house for someone working part of Jones' farm. The pinned sash certainly date prior to the Civil War, and, given the lack of finishes in the house, the likelihood is that this was a slave quarter. Rezin Jones bequeathed some of his property, along with this house, to his daughter, Margaret, in 1876. In 1903 Margaret Voltz sold the 50 acres where she had lived to Ezekiel and Cora Moxley. While the records are too vague to be certain where Margaret lived, it was almost certainly not in this house. The Moxleys had substantial land holdings and when they separated, trustees were appointed to sell these properties. The log cabin was sold with 4.9 acres to Harold and Jane Stromberg in 1944, and they deeded it to their son, Harold, Jr., and his wife Blanche, the following year. It must have been the Strombergs, senior or junior, who made substantial additions to the house and converted it to a bungalow. The house was scheduled to be demolished in early 2012.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-1079

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Jones-Stromberg House

other

## 2. Location

street and number 8523 High Ridge Road \_\_ not for publication

city, town Ellicott City  vicinity

county Howard

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

name Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

street and number 7105 Corporate Dr telephone

city, town Plano state TX zip code 75024

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 13271 folio 439

city, town Ellicott City tax map 18 tax parcel 52 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	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	1	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:			1	1
						Total	
						Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
						0	

## 7. Description

Inventory No. HO-1079

### 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 Jones-Stromberg House is a 1 1/2-story, four-bay by one-bay frame bungalow with a rubble stone foundation on the west end and the east end foundation is covered and not visible for examination. There is aluminum siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge. The north elevation has a concrete porch deck and brick piers with four wood Tuscan columns. The porch roof is nearly flat. The first story has a picture window in the east bay that covers nearly half of the house, a six-over-one sash in the east-center and west bays, and a door in the west-center bay that has four lights over three lying panels. There is a shed-roofed dormer with three three-over-one sash. The interior has one room in the three bays to the west, one room in the east bay, a long room with a modern kitchen in the southwest, and a bathroom and vestibule in the southeast. The northwest room has a closed-stringer stair on the west wall that ascends to the south, and the walls have paneling over drywall over logs. The upper story is four chambers, one in each corner, with no passages. The northwest chamber walls are log to the height of the eaves on all four sides.

#### Description:

The Jones-Stromberg House is located at 8523 High Ridge Road, on the southeast side of the street, about 1 3/4 miles north of Ellicott City in northeastern Howard County, Maryland. The house faces north toward the street and sits catty-corner on the lot, and sits further back on the lot than the other houses on the street.

It is a 1 1/2-story, four-bay by one-bay frame bungalow with a rubble stone foundation on the west end and the east end foundation is covered and not visible for examination. There is aluminum siding and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge.

The north elevation has a concrete porch deck and brick piers with four wood Tuscan columns. The porch roof is nearly flat. The first story has a picture window in the east bay that covers nearly half of the house, a six-over-one sash in the east-center and west bays, and a door in the west-center bay that has four lights over three lying panels. There is a shed-roofed dormer with three three-over-one sash.

The east elevation has a six-over-one sash on the first story and a three-over-one sash in the gable end. There is a six-over-one sash on the side of the southern shed-roofed dormer. The west elevation has a gable-roofed cellar entrance wing in the center, with a door that has four lights over nine panels, and there is a cornice applied above the glazing and two panels above the cornice. The gable end has a six-over-one sash.

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**Maryland Inventory of**  
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Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

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The south elevation, on the first story, has a door with three lights over three lying panels in the west bay. The west-center and east-center bays each have a six-over-one sash, and the east bay has a new, small, one-over-one sash. There is a shed-roofed dormer that is four bays long, with a six-over-one sash in the west-center and east bays. There is a cellar entrance with concrete steps down in the east-center bay. At the bottom of the steps is a door with four lights over three lying panels. There is a concrete block porch with an aluminum awning added to the south elevation.

The interior has one room in the three bays to the west, one room in the east bay, a long room with a modern kitchen in the southwest, and a bathroom and vestibule in the southeast. The northwest room has a closed-stringer stair on the west wall that ascends to the south, and it has no railing. There is a stair to the cellar below it, with a beaded-edge vertical board door on new hinges. The east wall has a boxed-in stove chimney. The north windows have had the muntins cut out of the bottom sash. All of the sash are mortised and tenoned and pinned. The joists are boxed in with dimensional lumber. The walls have paneling over drywall over logs, and the floor has carpet over linoleum.

The upper story is four chambers, one in each corner, with no passages. The northwest chamber has the stair from below, and there is a moulded handrail and square balusters, with a natural varnished finish. The walls are log to the height of the eaves on all four sides. The flooring is 3 1/4-inch tongue-and-grooved pine that runs east-west. The plaster ceiling has circular-sawn lath with wire nails. The rafters are circular-sawn 2 by 4s that support lath and circular-sawn shingles.

There is a basement under the northwest section of the house, only. There are 3/4-round log joists that run north-south. The foundation on the east stops about 4 feet west of the east wall.

# 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: _____

<b>Specific dates</b>	N/A	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	N/A
<b>Construction dates</b>	c. 1830-1860, c. 1945		

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 Jones-Stromberg House was one of several buildings owned by Rezin Jones, a farmer who lived and worked in the vicinity of Jonestown, just north of Ellicott City. Both the 1860 and 1877 maps show him with two buildings along the east side of what is now Rogers Avenue. The 1906 USGS quad of Ellicott City appears to show these two houses, as well as the Jones-Stromberg House along a farm lane that runs northeast from Rogers Avenue. This lane is now High Ridge Road. Jones almost certainly never lived in this house, but must have lived in one of the buildings right up on Rogers Avenue. This house, in the nineteenth century, was a simple log cabin with one room down and one room up, with exposed logs and most likely a large cooking fireplace at the east end, with a winder stair tucked into the southeast corner next to the fireplace. This was probably a slave quarter or a tenant house for someone working part of Jones' farm. The pinned sash certainly date prior to the Civil War, and, given the lack of finishes in the house, the likelihood is that this was a slave quarter; a good tenant farmer could have demanded better accommodation, both in size and finish.

Rezin Jones bequeathed some of his property, along with this house, to his daughter, Margaret, in 1876. Margaret was about 38 years old and single, and would not marry until around 1883; she married George Voltz, who was over 18 years her senior. He was listed as a farmer in 1900, but died shortly after, and in 1903 Margaret Voltz sold the 50 acres where she had lived to Ezekiel and Cora Moxley. While the records are too vague to be certain where Margaret lived, it was almost certainly not in this house. Since her father owned two other houses along Rogers Avenue, and her only other sibling was her older brother, Rezin, Jr., she probably inherited one of the other houses, and this log structure probably continued to house tenants. It seems likely that there may have been freed slaves living here during this period. The Moxleys had substantial land holdings and when they separated, trustees were appointed to sell these properties. The log cabin was sold with 4.9 acres to Harold and Jane Stromberg in 1944, and they deeded it to their son, Harold, Jr., and his wife Blanche, the following year. It must have been the Strombergs, senior or junior, who made substantial additions to the house and converted it to a bungalow. This work probably included the removal of the original chimney and stairway, and completely covered over the original structure so that nothing of its historic nature could be seen. Only

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a few anomalies in its appearance hinted to something earlier, hidden behind several later periods of fabric. The Strombergs sold the property in 1994 and the land was then subdivided, but the house was retained at that time. However, the house was scheduled to be demolished in early 2012.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 27,361 sq. ft.  
Acreage of historical setting 50 A  
Quadrangle name Ellicott City                      Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the outlines of the property, tax map 18, parcel 52, which encompasses all of the historic buildings and features on the site.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

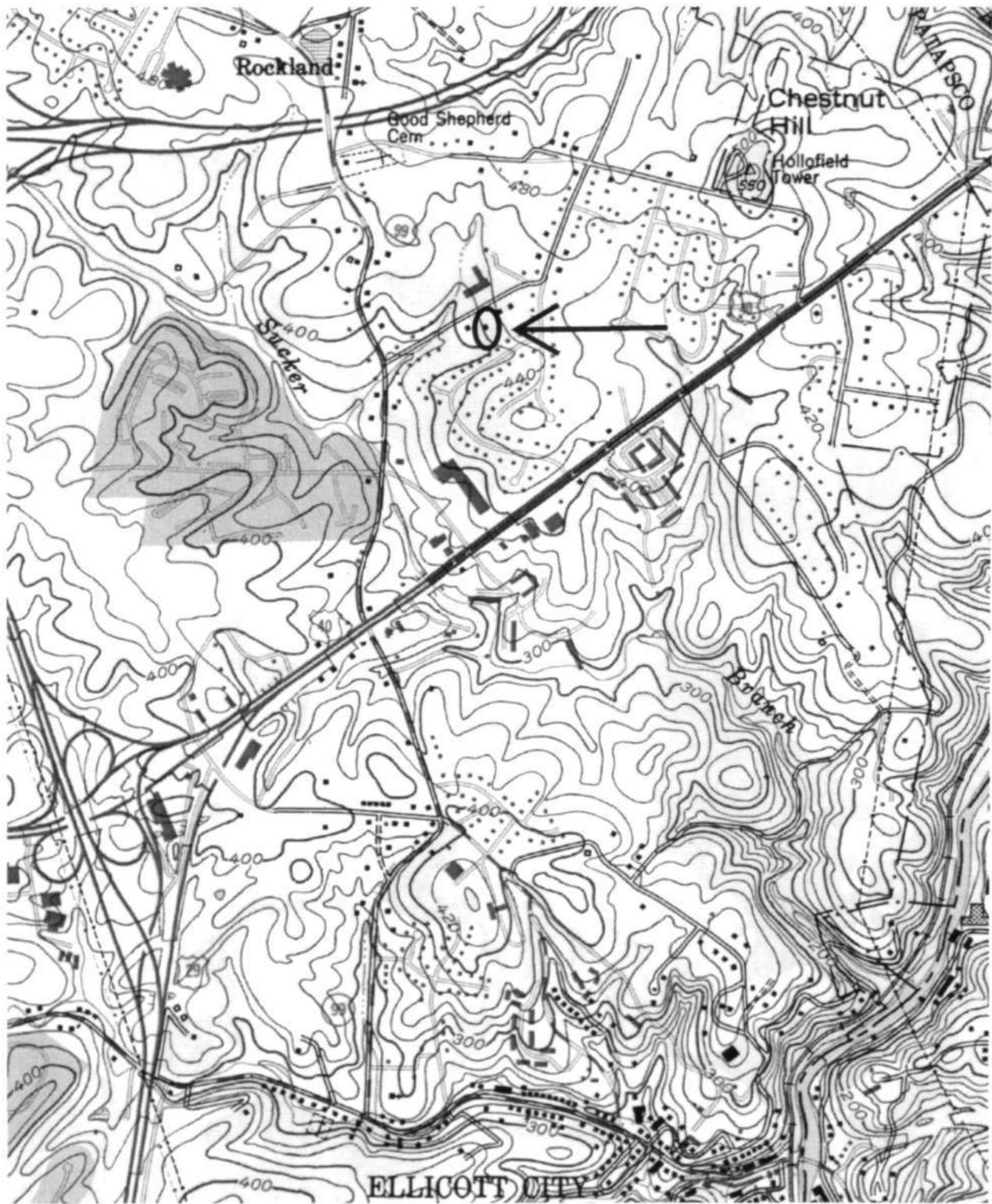
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name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	March 2012
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

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-1079  
Jones-Stromberg House  
8523 High Ridge Road  
Ellicott City quad

HO-1079  
Jones-Stromberg House  
8523 High Ridge Road  
Howard County, Maryland  
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

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

HO-1079\_2011-12-21\_01  
North elevation

HO-1079\_2011-12-21\_02  
South & east elevations

HO-1079\_2011-12-21\_03  
Interior, northwest room, view west

HO-1079\_2011-12-21\_04  
Interior, northwest chamber, view northwest



HO-1079

Jones-Stromberg House

8523 High Ridge Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-12-21

MD SHPO

North elevation

1 of 4



HO-1079

Jones-Stromberg House

8523 High Ridge Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-12-21

MD SHPO

South + east elevations

2 of 4



HO-1079

Jones-Stromberg House

8523 High Ridge Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-12-21

MD SHPO

Interior, northwest room, view west

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Jones-Stromberg House

8523 High Ridge Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-12-21

MD SHPO

Interior, northwest chamber, view

northwest

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