

HO-1099  
"Oak Hill"  
Old Waterloo Road  
Burned, 1967

EDMS 11 | JAN 1980

**Description:**

"Oak Hill" was located on the west side of Old Waterloo Road, just north of Route 95, near Waterloo in eastern Howard County, Maryland. The house burned in 1967, so it is known only from two photographs. The house was a 2 ½-story, five-bay by two-bay frame structure with wood siding and a mansard roof with slate. The house apparently faced southeast. The southeast elevation had a central doorway in a projecting pavilion front, and to either side were two windows that appear to have been six-over-four sash that extended down to close to the porch deck. The five-bay, one-story porch also projected forward in the center bay and had chamfered square posts, with jig-sawn brackets. The center of the porch had a balustrade on the roof with paneled newel posts topped with bold, squat urns. The second story center bay had paired, segmentally-arched four-over-four sash with cornices that had keystones. To either side were two four-over-four sash. There was a deep, bracketed cornice with internal gutter. The center bay of the roof was taller than the side bays, forming a turret with a bold cornice and iron cresting. The front of the turret roof had a dormer consisting of a Venetian window with a broken pediment. The side bays had a single dormer that was semi-circular arched. On the southwest elevation the south bay had a three-sided bay window carried through the roof, which was topped with a finial.

**Significance:**

The property that became "Oak Hill" was owned by Thomas Watkins at his death in 1860. It took some time to sell the property following a court order to that effect in 1865, and the sale was ratified in 1867. However, it took a further court order in 1874 before the trustees finally deeded the property to Annie L. Adams, the wife of Orson Adams, for \$9,500. The Adams family had probably taken possession of the property by 1867. Orson Adams was born in Somerset County, Maryland, and served as a clerk of the Bank of Commerce in Baltimore as early as 1858. He married Annie Fisher of Baltimore in 1860. He later was clerk of the circuit court of Baltimore before becoming a merchant, forming his own firm that imported wines, liquors, and cigars. The house at "Oak Hill" burned in 1875 and was rebuilt by the Adams family, the new dwelling reportedly containing 27 rooms. The house was a symmetrical 2 ½-story, double-pile Second Empire frame building, with mansard roof covered in slate and containing bold, segmentally arched dormers and iron cresting. The house was built at the height of Second Empire popularity and the details are well-handled and beyond the typical builder knock-off that many were building at the time; it almost certainly was designed by an architect, most likely from Baltimore. It was apparently sitting vacant when it burned in 1967.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-1099

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

historic "Oak Hill"

other

## 2. Location

street and number Old Waterloo Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Jessup X vicinity

county Howard

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

name Not found

street and number telephone

city, town state zip code

## 4. Location of Legal Description

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

city, town Ellicott City tax map 37 tax parcel 382 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>0</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 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>0</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Demolished		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				<u>0</u>	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. HO-1099

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

### Summary:

“Oak Hill” was located on the west side of Old Waterloo Road, just north of Route 95, near Waterloo in eastern Howard County, Maryland. The house burned in 1967, so it is known only from two photographs. The house was a 2 ½-story, five-bay by two-bay frame structure with wood siding and a mansard roof with slate. The house apparently faced southeast. The southeast elevation had a central doorway in a projecting pavilion front, and to either side were two windows that appear to have been six-over-four sash that extended down to close to the porch deck. The five-bay, one-story porch also projected forward in the center bay and had chamfered square posts, with jig-sawn brackets. The center of the porch had a balustrade on the roof with paneled newel posts topped with bold, squat urns. The second story center bay had paired, segmentally-arched four-over-four sash with cornices that had keystones. To either side were two four-over-four sash. There was a deep, bracketed cornice with internal gutter. The center bay of the roof was taller than the side bays, forming a turret with a bold cornice and iron cresting. The front of the turret roof had a dormer consisting of a Venetian window with a broken pediment. The side bays had a single dormer that was semi-circular arched. On the southwest elevation the south bay had a three-sided bay window carried through the roof, which was topped with a finial.

### Description:

#### House

“Oak Hill” was located on the west side of Old Waterloo Road, just north of Route 95, near Waterloo in eastern Howard County, Maryland. The house burned in 1967, so it is known only from two photographs, one in the possession of the Howard County Historical Society and reproduced in *Images of America: Howard County*, and the other in the possession of Mary McDonald Mason and reproduced here with permission.

The house was a 2 ½-story, five-bay by two-bay frame structure with wood siding and a mansard roof with slate. The house apparently faced southeast. The southeast elevation had a central doorway in a projecting pavilion front, and to either side were two windows that appear to have been six-over-four sash that extended down to close to the porch deck; they had blinds. The five-bay, one-story porch also projected forward in the center bay and had chamfered square posts, with three at each corner and four flanking each side of the center bay. These posts were set on paneled plinths and had deep mouldings at the top of the plinth and on the capital. There were jig-sawn brackets between each pair of posts, and triangular brackets of a different, less lacy pattern on the sides of the posts not adjacent to another post. The porch had a cornice with brackets set only above each post. The center of the porch had a balustrade on the roof with ovals cut out of the balustrade, a heavy handrail, and paneled newel posts topped with bold, squat urns. There were three newels at each front corner and one on each side against the wall of the house. The second story center bay had paired, segmentally-arched four-over-four sash

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with cornices that had keystones. These appear to have extended down to the porch deck. To either side were two four-over-four sash with cornices and blinds. There was a deep, bracketed cornice with internal gutter. The center bay of the roof was taller than the side bays, forming a turret with a frieze at the top that had cutouts that could have been quatrefoils. Above the frieze was a bold cornice and iron cresting. The front of the turret roof had a dormer consisting of a Venetian window with a broken pediment. The center sash broke through the pediment and was topped with a segmental pediment. The slate had two bands of hexagonal slates, each band of several courses height. The side bays had a single dormer centered between the second story windows. Each dormer was semi-circular arched with a two-over-two sash, and had a cornice at the top and carved scrolls on either side at the bottom. The slate had one band of hexagonal slates, of several courses height, in the center. The hips had roll mouldings, and there was a deep cornice at the break in the mansard, with iron cresting above the cornice. The house had internal brick chimneys with bishops' caps.

On the southwest elevation the west bay of both stories had a four-over-four sash with cornice and blinds, and the roof had a dormer that matched the front elevation end bay dormers and aligned with the windows below. The cornice and roofing were identical to the southeast. The south bay had a three-sided bay window carried through the roof. Both the first and second stories had a four-over-four sash with cornice and blinds in each side of the bay. There was a wood cornice applied between the two stories on all three sides. The roof had a dormer on all three sides that matched the front elevation end bay dormers. The top half of the roof was given a steeper pitch, making it visible and in effect, creating a turret out of the bay; it was topped with a finial.

There was a shorter, two-story ell on the rear of the house, but the photograph does not reveal much in the way of details on it. Family tradition states that there were 27 rooms in the house, and after the house burned, all that was left was five chimneys and porches on the rear and a sleeping porch.

### Outbuildings

To the northwest of the house was a one-story, one-bay square frame building with wood siding that matched the house, and with a hip roof covered with what appear to be wood shingles. It had a door on the southeast elevation and no opening on the southwest.

Further west of the house was a larger farm outbuilding with a gable roof. It appears to be one story, though it is possible that it is set on the opposite side of a ridge that conceals the bottom part of the building. There are no openings visible on the building, which appears to have wood siding. The gable ridge runs southwest-northeast and the roof has deep overhangs and appears to have wood shingles.

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# 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. 1875-76		

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 property that became “Oak Hill” was owned by Thomas Watkins at his death in 1860. It took some time to sell the property following a court order to that effect in 1865, and the sale was ratified in 1867. However, it took a further court order in 1874 before the trustees finally deeded the property to Annie L. Adams, the wife of Orson Adams, for \$9,500. The Adams family had probably taken possession of the property by 1867. Orson Adams was born in Somerset County, Maryland, and served as a clerk of the Bank of Commerce in Baltimore as early as 1858. He married Annie Fisher of Baltimore in 1860. He later was clerk of the circuit court of Baltimore before becoming a merchant, forming his own firm that imported wines, liquors, and cigars. The house at “Oak Hill” burned in 1875 and was rebuilt by the Adams family, the new dwelling reportedly containing 27 rooms. The house was a symmetrical 2 ½-story, double-pile Second Empire frame building, with mansard roof covered in slate and containing bold, segmentally arched dormers and iron cresting. The house was built at the height of Second Empire popularity and the details are well-handled and beyond the typical builder knock-off that many were building at the time; it almost certainly was designed by an architect, most likely from Baltimore. It was apparently sitting vacant when it burned in 1967.

### Significance:

The property that became “Oak Hill” was owned by Thomas Watkins at his death in 1860. It took some time to sell the property following a court order to that effect in 1865, and the sale was ratified in 1867. However, it took a further court order in 1874 before the trustees finally deeded the property to Annie L. Adams, the wife of Orson Adams, for \$9,500. It was common for businessmen to put their family home in their wife’s name, probably to protect it from creditors in the case of a business reversal. The Adams family had probably taken possession of the property by 1867. Orson Adams (1835-1907) was born in Somerset County, Maryland, and served as a clerk of the Bank of Commerce in Baltimore as early as 1858. He married Annie Fisher (1836-1908) of Baltimore in 1860. He later was clerk of the circuit court of Baltimore before becoming a merchant, forming his own firm that imported wines, liquors, and cigars. Adams last appears in the Baltimore City directories in 1867, so he may have moved out to “Oak

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Name

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Hill” permanently after his wife purchased the property, but whether he remained in business or devoted himself full time to farming is not known. The house at “Oak Hill” burned in 1875 and was rebuilt by the Adams family, the new dwelling reportedly containing 27 rooms. Parcels of 12 and 36 acres were added later to expand the farm.<sup>1</sup>

The house the Adams’s built to replace the burned building was a symmetrical 2 ½-story, double-pile Second Empire frame building, with mansard roof covered in slate and containing bold, segmentally arched dormers and iron cresting. The center of the five-bay façade was given a projecting pavilion front and topped by a taller, turret roof. The dormer on this turret contained a Venetian window with a broken pediment to either side and a segmentally arched pediment in the center, above. The first story windows opened onto the porch, which contained paired and tripled chamfered posts with jig-sawn brackets. The second story center bay had paired windows that opened out onto the roof of the center of the porch, which had a heavy balustrade with newels topped by squat urns. There was a bold, bracketed cornice all around the house that concealed the internal gutters. On the south side was a three-sided bay window with turret roof capped by a decorative finial. In front of the house was a circular drive and behind it were at least two outbuildings, a small hip-roofed structure and a moderately-sized gabled farm building. Typical of the period, the trim was painted in several contrasting colors, or at least several shades, to help pick out the detail, and the slate had several patterned courses in the center of the roof, employing hexagonal slates. The house was built at the height of Second Empire popularity and the details are well-handled and beyond the typical builder knock-off that many were building at the time; it almost certainly was designed by an architect, most likely from Baltimore.

A tenant house on the “Oak Hill” property, which was inhabited by several of Adams’ sisters, burned in 1891. It is not known whether this building was rebuilt, or whether they moved into the main house or some other house. Orson Adams died in 1907. After the death of Annie Adams the following year the family created a trust to operate the farm for the benefit of all of her children, for 20 years. With the expiration of the trust the farm was incorporated, and it remained in the family until 1961. It was apparently sitting vacant when it burned in 1967; the chimneys reportedly stood until recently, when the entire site was redeveloped.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Woods’ Baltimore City Directory*, (Baltimore, John W. Woods, 1858, 1864, 1867). McDonald Wellford, “The Adams Family of ‘Oak Hill’, Howard County, Maryland.” Typescript, 1976.

<sup>2</sup> *Baltimore Sun*, 12 June 1891, Supplement, p. 2. Wellford, “The Adams Family of ‘Oak Hill’.”

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See footnotes

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property	<u>0 A</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>223 A</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Savage</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24000</u>

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

There are no boundaries since none of the buildings survive and redevelopment of the property has rendered archaeological resource recovery unlikely.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	September 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.

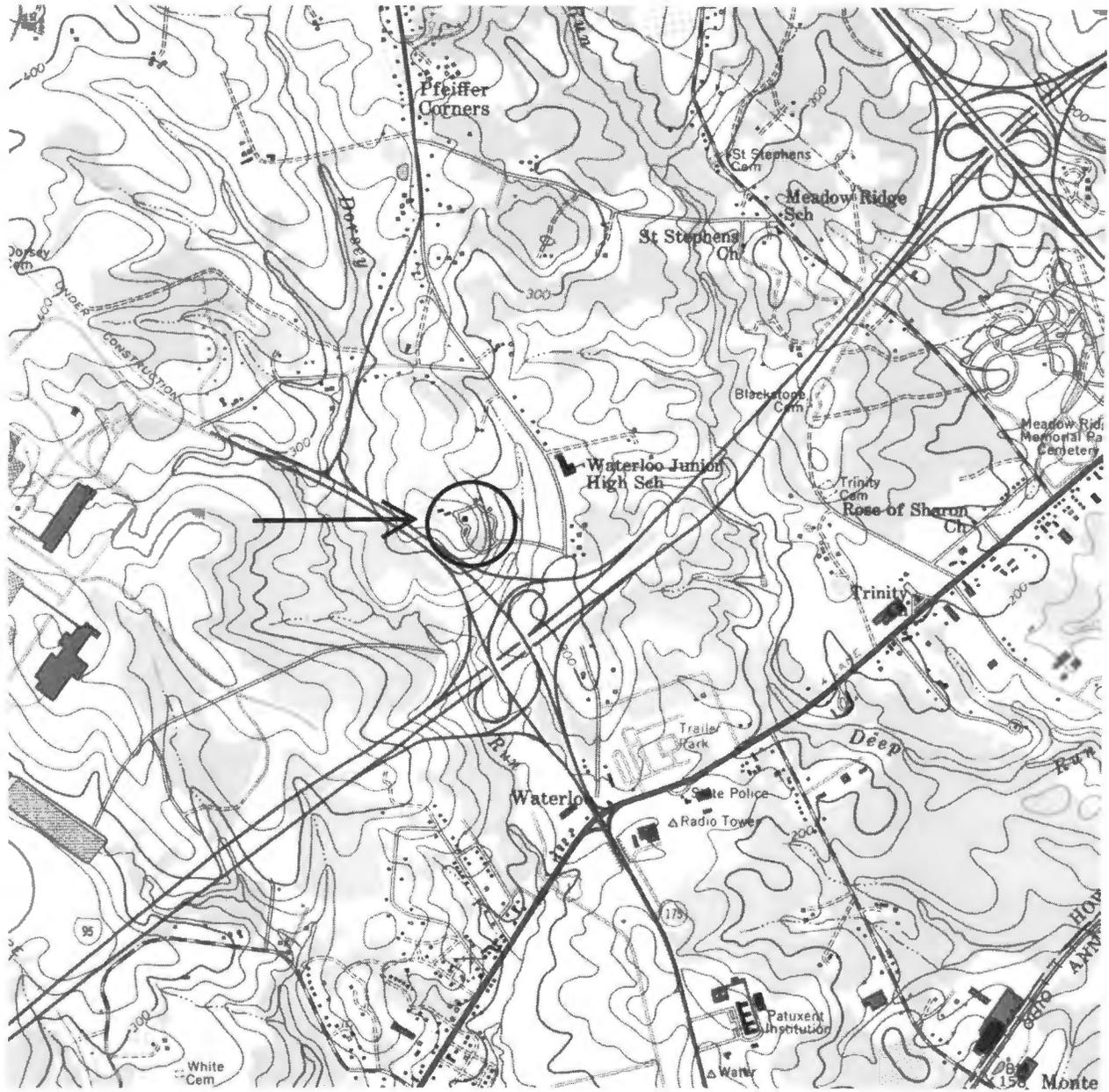
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

"Oak Hill" (O-1099)  
 Old Annapolis Road  
**CHAIN OF TITLE**

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER- ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
							Not found
Oak Hill Farms, Inc. / MD	George A. Dezes & wf Helen G.	13 October 1961	WHH 375-130	Deed – fee simple	\$5.00	8.9951 A.	
Howard Adams Edith A. Atterbury, trustees et al	Oak Hill Farms, Inc. / MD	20 May 1929	HSK 137-46	Deed – fee simple	\$1.00	?	1. All land of heirs of Orson Adams 2. 3 parcels adjacent to (1) sold to Howard Adams 3. Parcel adjacent to (1) sold to Irving Adams
Charles F. Adams, et al children & heirs of Annie L. Adams / Howard	Howard Adams Edith A. Atterbury, trustees	15 December 1908	WWLC 87-62	Deed – ?	\$10.00	223-3-31 ARP	On road from Jessups to Ellicott City known as Old Annapolis Road Farm called Oak Hill & all pp, livestock 3 deeds term of 20 yrs for trust
James Macubin, trustee Thomas H. Fisher / Howard	Annie L. Adams	25 May 1875	WHO 35-305	Deed – ?	\$9,500	?	Circuit Ct. decree, Equity 13 Apr. 1865. Elisa A. Gardner v. Benjamin Watkins et al. sale ratified 8 Nov. 1867 further order 2 Apr. 1874 prop. of Thomas Watkins – will 3 Jan. 1859, probated 1860 WG 1-447 J. Shaaf Stockett & Watkins were 1 <sup>st</sup> trustees Julian J. Alexander 2 <sup>nd</sup> trustees Failed to sell 1 <sup>st</sup> try (1)
Mary A. Jess & husb. Edward A. / Howard	Annie L. Adams / Howard	13 December 1882	LJW 46-125	Deed – fee	\$510.00	12-3-0 ARP	Exclusive of graveyard adjoining Adams property (2)

"Oak Hill" (O-1099)  
Old Annapolis Road  
**CHAIN OF TITLE**

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER- ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Orson Adams / Howard	Annie L. Adams	2 June 1890	JHO 56-79	Deed -	\$2,310	36-2-35 ARP	3 deeds  (3)



HO-1099  
"Oak Hill"  
Old Waterloo Road  
Savage quad

HO-1099  
"Oak Hill"  
Old Waterloo Road  
Howard County, Maryland  
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera  
Epson Premium paper  
Epson Photo Black UltraChrome ink cartridge

HO-1099\_2012-04-25\_01  
Historic photo, southwest and southeast  
elevations



HO-1099

'Oak Hill'

Old Waterloo Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2012-04-25

MD SHPO

Historic photo, southwest and southeast  
elevations

1 of 1