

Ilchester Post Office
HO-458
4607 Bonnie Branch Road, Ellicott City
Howard County
ca. 1910; ca. 1950
Private

The Ilchester Post Office is located on Bonnie Branch Road, a curving scenic roadway, south of the Ellicott City Historic District. The house (ca. 1950), post office (ca. 1910), and garage (ca. 1950) are set on a 1-acre wooded lot. The property slopes steeply behind the buildings, which are set close to the roadway. The Bonnie Branch, a picturesque tributary of the Patapsco River, is located just on the other side of street.

The Ilchester Post Office has significance for its association with events that have made a contribution to the broad pattern of Howard County history. The smallest of Howard County's rural post offices, the Ilchester Post Office (originally opened in 1842) represents the evolution of Howard County's development since the 19th c and the historic scale of local postal enterprise. When founded by one of the Ellicott Brothers, Ilchester was nearly as prominent as Ellicott's Mills in terms of the scale of industrial activity and prominence of location. The village boasted a Baltimore & Ohio railroad station, much like that found at Ellicott's Mills, which historically housed the post office. As Ellicott City eclipsed Ilchester, St. Mary's College (HO-392) became the primary post office user and a small post office building was built on the banks of the Patapsco. The existing ca. 1910 building was moved to the current location, next to the post mistress' house, in ca. 1950. Over time, as government became more centralized, greater numbers of local residents acquired cars, roads improved, and rural populations decreased, many of Howard County's rural post offices, including the Ilchester Post Office, were closed.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-458

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Ilchester Post Office (preferred)
other Schaad House

2. Location

street and number 4607 Bonnie Branch Road not for publication
city, town Ellicott City vicinity
county Howard

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

name Julia Kovacs
street and number 4607 Bonnie Branch Road telephone n/a
city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21043

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Land Records liber 7732 folio 637
city, town Columbia tax map 31 tax parcel 329 tax ID number 01-178660

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>3</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>3</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>1</u>	

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-458

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 Ilchester Post Office is located on Bonnie Branch Road, a curving scenic roadway, south of the Ellicott City Historic District. The house (ca. 1950), post office (ca. 1910), and garage (ca. 1950) are set on a 1-acre wooded lot. The property slopes steeply behind the buildings, which are set close to the roadway. The Bonnie Branch, a picturesque tributary of the Patapsco River, is located just on the other side of street.

Post office

The post office building is the most significant building on the property. The post office building is a 1-story, 1-bay, front-gable building. The building, now covered with vinyl siding, has an asphalt roof and is set on a concrete slab foundation. The historic photo of the building shows wood German siding and a roofing paper roof covering.

The primary façade of the post office faces west. The building is fronted by a shed roofed porch that encloses the mail boxes and the service counter. The porch is now glazed on all three sides. The front of the porch holds two fifteen light fixed doors. The south side of the porch holds one fifteen light fixed door. The north side façade encloses the entry door, which is a fifteen light door. The historic photo of the building shows a wood four-panel entry door and front windows with a similar multi-light configuration to the existing.

The north (side) façade has one window opening, which holds a single-pane window. The east (rear) façade has one door opening, which holds a wood four-light over three panel door. The south (side) façade does not have any openings.

The interior of the post office consists of the main room and the porch. The historic mailboxes and service window remain between the porch and the main room and appear to date from the early 20th c. The "U. S. Post Office" sign, which hangs from the front façade in the historic photo, now hangs inside the porch. The main room of post office is currently empty.

House

4607 Bonnie Branch Road (ca. 1950) is a tiny 1 1/2-story, 3-bay, end gable Cape Cod cottage in excellent, altered condition. The house is set on a parged CMU cellar and has vinyl siding, replacement windows, and an asphalt roof. The house has a recent front deck and six-panel replacement front door.

The front facade of 4607 Bonnie Branch Road faces southwest. The front facade is symmetrical about its entry bay. The main entry is flanked by two window openings. A pair of gable roofed dormers pierces the front roofline. The dormers each have one window opening, which are vertically aligned with the 1st floor openings.

The southeast (side) elevation has two 1st story windows, one 2nd story window centered in the gable end, and two cellar windows that are vertically aligned with the 1st story openings.

The northeast (rear) elevation has one centered door opening which is flanked by one window opening.

A small shed roofed wing projects from the northwest (side) façade. The northwest façade of the main house has one window opening, which is located north of the wing. A CMU exhaust chimney is located at the juncture of the main house and the wing. The small wing presumably houses the bathroom and has one tiny window opening in its northwest side. A basement bulkhead is located on the southwest façade of the small wing.

Garage

A one-bay gable roofed garage is located southeast of the house. The garage is set into the steep slope behind the house and is 1-story at the front and 1/2-story at the back. The garage is covered in vinyl siding and has an asphalt shingle roof. The buildings primary gable-end façade faces southwest and encloses a recent paneled garage door. The other facades do not have any openings.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-458

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1959 **Architect/Builder** Henry Kramer (likely builder)

Construction dates ca. 1950s

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 Ilchester Post Office has significance for its association with events that have made a contribution to the broad pattern of Howard County history. The smallest of Howard County's rural post offices, the Ilchester Post Office (originally opened in 1842) represents the evolution of Howard County's development since the 19th c and the historic scale of local postal enterprise. When founded by one of the Ellicott Brothers, Ilchester was nearly as prominent as Ellicott's Mills in terms of the scale of industrial activity and prominence of location. The village boasted a Baltimore & Ohio railroad station, much like that found at Ellicott's Mills, which historically housed the post office. As Ellicott City eclipsed Ilchester, St. Mary's College (HO-392) became the primary post office user and a small post office building was built on the banks of the Patapsco. The existing building was moved to the current location, next to the post mistress' house, in ca. 1950. Over time, as government became more centralized, greater numbers of local residents acquired cars, roads improved, and rural populations decreased, many of Howard County's rural post offices, including the Ilchester Post Office, were closed.

Owners and occupants

The survival of the Ilchester post office to the 21st century can almost certainly be credited to Teresa Schaad, the post mistress who had the building moved to her property in the mid-20th century. She, and her husband Gerald, owned the property from 1959 until 2001. In 1959, Henry J. Kramer and his wife Gertrude subdivided a 1-acre piece of their property on Bonnie Branch Road and deeded it to their daughter Teresa and her husband. It seems likely that the Cape Cod house and post office were built for Teresa and Gerald before that date.

Teresa's father was a house builder and may well have built 4607 Bonnie Branch Road. Henry Kramer was raised in Howard County, the son of German-American farmer, Horace Kramer. Henry Kramer was the brother of Herman Kramer, who developed the row of Cape Cods along Orchard Drive, much like 4607 Bonnie Branch Road, on Kramer land. In 1930, the Henry Kramer family consisted of Henry (aged 35) – a house builder, his wife Gertrude (aged 33), their children William (aged 13), Agnes (aged 10), Joseph (aged 8) and Theresa (aged 3), and Gertrude's parents William Hood (aged 68) and Nellie Hood (aged 63).¹

¹ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Fifteenth Census of United States: 1930, Population Schedule**, E.D. 14-3, Sheet 15A.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-458

Cramm, Joetta. **A Pictorial History of Howard County**. Self published, 2004.

Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census. **Census of United States: Population Schedule 1930**.

Howard County Land Records, Dorsey Building, Columbia. See attached chain of title for specific libers and folios.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1 acre

Acreage of historical setting 1 acre

Quadrangle name Ellicott City

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Ilchester Post Office corresponds to Map 31, Grid 4 Parcel 329, which is the buildings' current and historic legal lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Jennifer Goold, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	July 26, 2005
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

H 458

HO-458

Ilchester Post Office
4607 Bonnie Branch Road, Ellicott City
Howard County

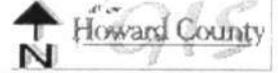
CHAIN OF TITLE

grantor	grantee	date	liber	folio	transaction	cost	acreage	notes
Peter G. Ruff	Julia Kovacs	10-6-2003	7732	637	Deed	236,000	1 acre	
Samuel R. McClung II	Peter G. Ruff	10-21-2002	6580	298	Deed	167,000	1 acre	
Gerald R. Schaad	Samuel R. McClung II	10-2-2001	5739	25	Deed	135,000	1 acre	
Henry J. Kramer and Gertrude H. Kramer	Gerald R. Schaad and Teresa A. Schaad	04-02-1959	330	126	Deed	5.00	1 acre	



Distance: ft

Zoom: ft



Ilchester Post Office (HO-458)
4607 Bonnie Branch Road, Ellicott City
Howard County
Site plan/Aerial photo



Ilchester Post Office (HO-458)
4607 Bonnie Branch Road, Ellicott City
Howard County
Historic photo (Cramm, p. 103)



Ilchester Post Office (HO-458)
4607 Bonnie Branch Road, Ellicott City
Howard County
USGS Savage Quad



HO-458

Hechester Post Office

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

June 2005

MD SHPO

View NE. Shows house, post office, + garage
in setting

1065

ART-2611 <NO. 5 >816
978 1217 -1 N H+2 25 <044>@



HO-458

Ilchester Post office

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Good

June 2005

MD SHPO

View N. Shows house.

2005

ART-2614 <NO. 2 >007
969 1212 -1 N N-4 30 <04430>



HO-458

Manchester Post Office

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

June 2005

MD 84170

Views. Shows post office

3065

ART-2614 <NO. 4 >B11
669 1212 -1 N N-3 19 <044>0



S. POST

LICHETER

6-29-2008

HO-458

Ilchester Post Office

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

June 2005

MD SHPO

Views. Shows detail of post office

4 of 5

ART-2611 (No. 3 2818
969 1212 -1 N H-4-14 (0443)



40-458

Hchester Post Office

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Goad

June 2005

MD SHPO

View E. Shows path from Bonnie Branch to house.

5065

ART-2611 <No. 1 >886
969 1717 - 1 11 N-2 18 X84428

HO-458
Ilchester Post Office
4607 Bonnie Branch Road
Elkridge (Halethorpe)

According to a local resident, this small one-story gable-front frame building was the original post office for the town of Ilchester. It is a small outbuilding located to the west of 4607 Bonnie Branch Road, on the south side of that road.