

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes

JUL 25^{no} 2003

Property Name: Nelson House Inventory Number: HO-623

Address: 3992 Old Columbia Pike City: Ellicott City Zip Code: 21043

County: Howard USGS Topographic Map: Ellicott City, MD Quad

Owner: Theodore M. and Patricia M. Nelson Is the property being evaluated a district? yes

Tax Parcel Number: 255 Tax Map Number: 24 Tax Account ID Number: 235862

Project: Nelson Property/The Woods of Tiber Branch Agency: _____

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Is the property located within a historic district? yes no

<i>If the property is within a district</i>		District Inventory Number: _____
NR-listed district <input type="checkbox"/> yes	Eligible district <input type="checkbox"/> yes	District Name: _____
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Non-contributing but eligible in another context <input type="checkbox"/>		

<i>If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)</i>	
Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MIHP Form, Howard County Historical Society, Land Records, Voting Records

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

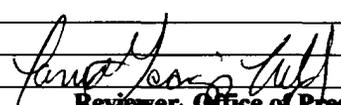
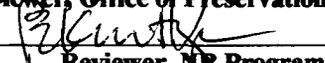
Located on the north side of Old Columbia Pike, this house and outbuildings stand on 17.6 acres, the largest lot along the Pike between Ellicott City and Montgomery Road, and reflects the rural atmosphere that once existed on the outskirts of the historic town. The house is surrounded by mature trees, and the back of the property is a thickly wooded stream valley.

David Fulton owned the Nelson House property in 1860, according to the 1860 Martenet Map. The 1860 Census listed him as a 33 year old merchant with a 33 year old wife named Mary and two small children.¹ He owned a hardware store and was eligible for the draft during the Civil War, but 1862 when drafted, he paid for someone else to serve for him.²

The property was attributed to D.C. Fulton in the 1878 Hopkins Atlas, one of the few dwellings along the north side of Columbia Pike between Ellicott City to the east and Hilton, a small community close by to the west.³ By 1870⁴ he had four

¹ One was William C. Fulton, born 1855.

² The Civil War Enrollment and Draft of 1862 in Howard County. Joseph N. Nichols and Richard W. Bush. Columbia, MD Howard County Genealogical Society, Inc., 2001.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	
	8/1/03
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
	8/7/03
Reviewer, NR Program	Date

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

HO-623

children and a 17 year old white cook and 16 year old black servant in residence. By 1880⁵ the wholesale hardware merchant's 25 year old son Willie was listed as a farmer, and there were two black servants listed as residing with the family (one 40 and female and the other 18 and male). In a 1905 Baltimore *Sun* article, the property was described as "one of the finest sites around Ellicott City." In 1915, David M. Fulton sold the land to [John D.?] Mitchell⁶. (Interestingly, voting records show some members of the Fulton family residing on Columbia Pike/Road in Hilton through 1928.⁷)

The property was described as the Mitchell family farm⁸ from 1915⁹ through the mid 1920s when parcels were sold off to various Mitchell Family members (an acre to each of James Harold Mitchell in 1924 and Clancy Mitchell in 1925, 12 ½ acres to Hubert Mitchell 1926 and 1/6 acre to neighbor Elmer Cavey. After her husband John D. Mitchell died in 1926, Mrs. Mary E. Mitchell remained in the house until it was destroyed by fire in March 1928.¹⁰ The barn, smokehouse and carriage house survived when the prevailing winds spared them from the fire. The small, square, hipped-roof, stone smoke house, the gable-roofed, board-and-batten carriage house and the remains of the barn's stone foundation attest to the earlier Fulton/Mitchell occupancies of the site.

In May 1928, she sold the land to T. James Hunter and Zora Hunter who had the current house constructed on the pre-existing stone foundation of the Fulton/Mitchell house. The current owners have a copy of the April 1929 contract signed between Earl W. Royer, Contractor, and T. James and Zora E. Hunter (wife), Owner, listing the Atlantic Mill and Lumber Company as supplier, and Bernard Evander as Architect with office at 20 E. Lexington Street in Baltimore.¹¹ The Owner was to pay the Contractor \$5,533 for materials and labor to construct the existing house.

The American Four Square is three bays wide and three bays deep with a two-bay square ell and an enclosed porch projecting off the rear (on the SW corner). The western ell shares the same stone foundation as the house, and it appears to have been retained from the Fulton/Mitchell house. Apparently the ell was once a back porch, later enclosed by descendants of the Hunter family for an aging relative.¹² A new porch then was constructed on the NW corner. The Hunter family sided the house with aluminum and enclosed part of the backyard with chain link fencing.

The enclosed porch is supported on concrete block piers and the front porch spanning the width of the house has brick piers. The front porch, rebuilt two years ago, has four simple classical columns (Colonial Revival reference) and square stock railing.

³ Joetta Cramm, a local historian and researcher is currently undertaking a study of the historic community.

⁴ 1870 Census records.

⁵ 1880 Census records.

⁶ MIHP Form HO-623. Land Records show John D and Mary E, Mitchell buying 23 acres from Wesley Bennett and Mary W. Bennett, who kept a mortgage for \$7,5000 until it was fully paid off after John D. Mitchell's death in April 1926. The Bennetts had acquired this parcel of land from Samuel Eidson and Eva Eidson, his wife in 1919.

⁷ William F.C. born c. 1854 or 1855, voted 1896, 1912, 1914, 1920-1928.

Dvid M. Fulton, born 1862, voted 1913-1928.

Emma Fulton, born 1856, wife of William C., mother of Carlin, William, Jennie, and Nina, voted 1920-1924, still registered in 1928.

Carlin Fulton, born late 1880s, son of William Fulton, voted 1909, 1912.

Nina B. Fulton, born c. 1900, sister of Carlin, daughter of William Fulton, voted 1921.

Jennie Fulton, younger sister of Nina, voted 1923-1926.

⁸ Various members of the Mitchell family lived on Columbia Road, as the route was called then, and voted in Precinct 2, District 2, in the first quarter of the 20th Century according to voting records. John D. Mitchell was 56 when he voted in 1923; records indicate he had been born in Tennessee, as had his wife Mary E., and he died in October 12, 1926. J. Harold and Pearl A. Mitchell, 24 and 27 respectively in 1923, all four Republicans voted in 1923, 1924, but were non-residents by 1928; they purchased the Lutz House property in 1924 according to Land records. Another Mitchell, Wade H., born in MD, was 21 years old when he registered in 1915, and he voted from 1915-1928.

⁹ MIHP Form HO-623.

¹⁰ "Mitchell Residence Destroyed By Fire," *Ellicott City Times*, March 29, 1928.

¹¹ Little is known about Evander, according to the files of the Historic Architects Foundation, aka The Dead Architects Society.

¹² Interview with Patricia Nelson.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 2

HO-623

Wooden steps lead down not only from the center toward the road, but also from the north side where they are full width and not flanked by railings as the front steps are.

Hipped roofs are found on the main house, front porch and both rear extensions, while the four dormers atop the main roof have gabled roofs. The 1/1 windows around the house are both single and found in pairs. In the foundation, there are three small windows facing NE and three facing SW.

The floor plan offers a central stair hall with the living room to the west and the dining room to the east. The living room has a painted brick fireplace that has been converted to gas. The staircase has a square newel and simple square stock balusters 4" on center. The trim is very plain: approximately 1"x5" with rounded edges, no rabbet nor bead. The doors have two panels. The flooring is 2-3" wide oak throughout the first and second floors with rougher texture floor boards in the attic, at the top of the pine steps. The second floor has four bedrooms of approximately the same size with a central bath above the front door. Another 1/2 bath was added to the SW bedroom in what was a closet. The attic offers two bedrooms, another bath, a cedar closet and cubby holes under the eaves. The basement has a four light over two vertical panel door that may have been left over from the Fulton/Mitchell house.

Zora Hunter died in 1939 and James Hunter died in 1940. Ruth Hunter Parker, later Ruth Hunter Winslow, was their only daughter. Her daughter Elizabeth Parker Carter, Trustee, sold the property to the current owners. The Hunter/Parker/Winslow family did not farm the land. When the current owners, Theodore M. and Patricia M. Nelson, took over the property in 1981, the land was so overgrown that the remaining small chicken coops (probably from the Mitchells') had collapsed. The barn foundation was so obscured with vegetation, the Nelsons did not know it was there. The subsequent installation of a pool and concrete deck within the barn foundation walls, two small utility sheds and the gravel drive and parking area reflect the recent uses of the land.

The property does not appear to meet NR criteria for individual nomination under Criteria A, B nor C. While it is an interesting example of the American Four Square style in that it was architect-supervised and adapted to fit an earlier foundation, the vernacular house, now sided and with altered rear extensions, neither fits the prototypical kit house/catalog house format nor does the property truly represent either the Mitchell farming era or the summer residence of the Fulton family, since the primary residence, barn and chicken coops have been lost. Even the fire itself was not significant enough to be listed among notable Ellicott City occurrences written up in book form by the former fire chief.

As this stretch of Old Columbia Pike emerged from the 19th Century primarily a farming community and turned into a suburban corridor during the 20th Century, portions of the farms such as this one were subdivided into small lots and sold off. While there are a number of early 20th Century houses along the corridor, the grouping is not cohesive enough to be eligible for historic district listing.

Houses like this one would be considered contributing to the Ellicott City National Register District IF the district extended out Old Columbia Pike that far. It does not, however, and with good reason. There are substantial gaps in the mile-long streetscape of the Pike outside the current boundaries of the Ellicott City Historic District, and even more now than there were back in the late 1970s when the district was nominated to the National Register. These gaps are filled with too many modern or significantly altered dwellings to offer a consistent feeling; the intrusions break apart cohesive interpretation of an historic district. Local planners might consider implementing a conservation district along Old Columbia Pike, such as the one in Eastport, outside Annapolis, to help maintain the character of the area and structures, such as this house, that do offer architectural interest, but do not necessarily merit individual listing on the National Register.

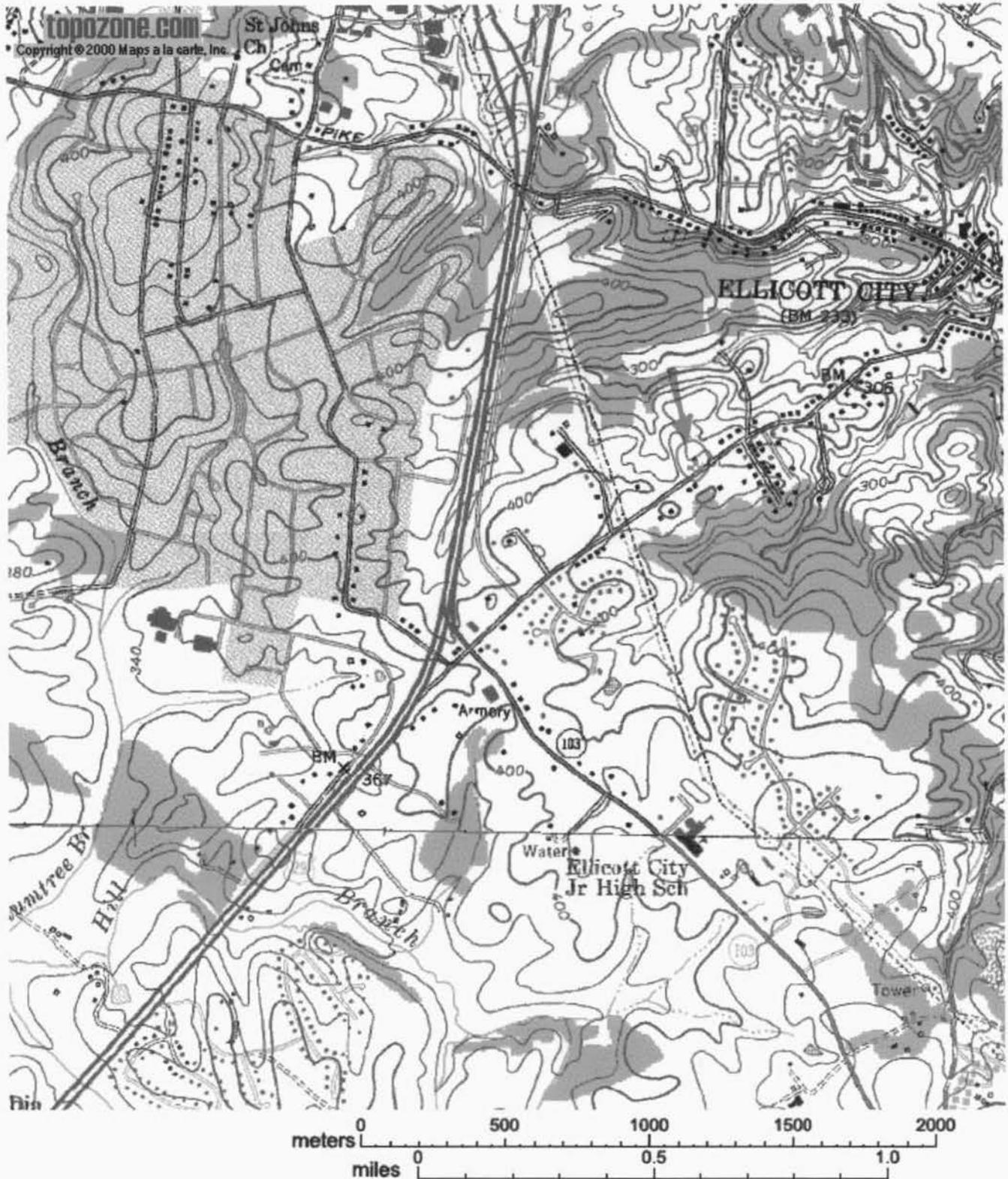
Prepared by: Lisa Jensen Wingate

Date Prepared: 6/22/2003

Nelson House HO-623
3992 Old Columbia Pike

TopoZone.com

Target is UTM 18 343732E 4347154N - **ELLICOTT CITY** quad [Quad Info]





140-623

Nelson House

Old Columbia Pike

Ellicott City, Howard Co, MD

C Jensen Wingate

6/03

MD SHPO

Front facade



HO-623

Nelson House

Old Columbia Pike

Ellicott City, Howard Co, MD

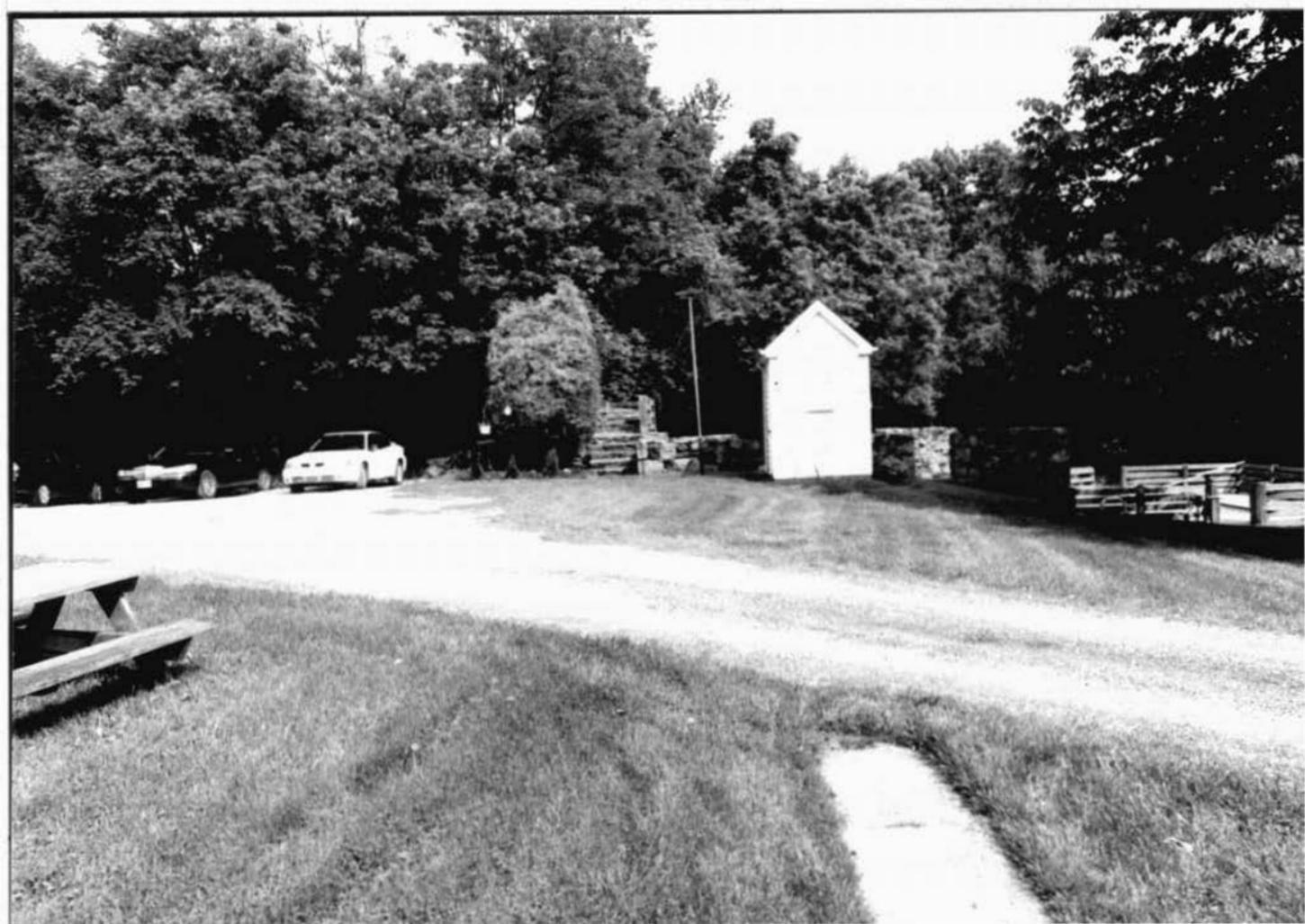
L Jensen Wingate

6103

MD SHPO

from left to right:

NE Elevation, Carriage House, Parking area
and barn foundation



HO-623

Nelson House

Ellicott City, Howard Co, MD

Lisa Jensen Wingate

6/03

MD SHPO

Behind house is a parking area, shed
and barn foundation enclosing a
swimming pool



Nelson House

HO-623

Old Columbia Pike

Ellicott City, Howard County MD

L Jensen Wingate

6103

MD SHPO

Swimming pool inside barn foundation
Carriage House @ left.



Ho-623

Nelson House

Old Columbia Pike

Ellicott City, Howard Co. MD

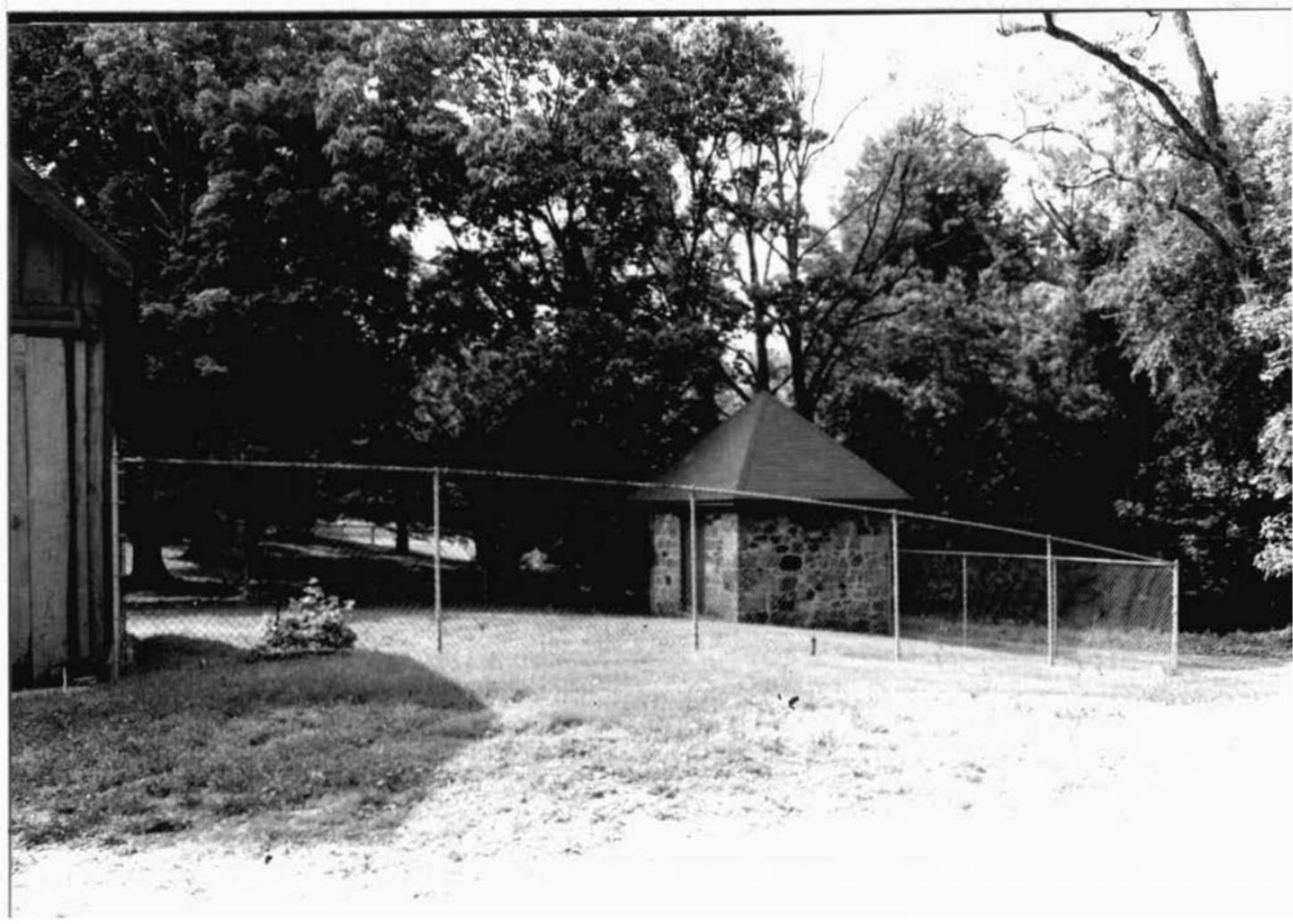
L Jensen Wingate

6/03

MD SHPO

Smoke House and Carriage House

View from back steps



170-623

Nelson House

Old Columbia Pike

Elliot City Howard Co MD

L Jensen Wingate

6103

MD SHPO

Smoke House and driveway exit.



HO-623

Nelson House

L Jensen Wingate
6/03

Smoke House



HO-623

Nelson House
Old Columbia Pike
Ellicott City, MD, Howard Co
L Jensen Wingate
6/03
MD SHPO

SW elevation

Nelson House
3992 Old Columbia Pike
HO-623

Located on the north side of Old Columbia Pike, this 2 1/2 story house stands on 17 acres, the largest lot along the Pike between Ellicott City and Montgomery Road. The house is square 3 bays by 3 bays with an ell. Clad in aluminum siding over clapboard, the house has a high hipped roof and gabled dormers. Building permit information indicates the house was built in 1929.

Although the large lot reflects the rural atmosphere that once existed on the outskirts of Ellicott City, this house is significant as an example of early suburban development in Howard County. It is part of an important intact corridor on the outskirts of Ellicott City.

Unlike many Baltimore area counties where housing construction exploded with the arrival of the railroad, Howard County had relatively little railroad-related growth. In the early 1900s, Ellicott City was served by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and was the terminus for a United Railway and Electric Streetcar Company line, yet a surprisingly small amount of commuter oriented residential development occurred until the period after World-War I.

Nelson House
3992 Old Columbia Pike
HO-623

HISTORIC PERIOD CONTEXT:

Region: Piedmont
Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance
Theme: Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
Resource Type: Residence/rural vernacular
Site Types: Standing structures

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name) Nelson House

historic

and/or common Nelson House

2. Location

street & number 3992 Old Columbia Pike (MD 987) not for publicationcity, town Ellicott City vicinity of congressional district Sixthstate Maryland county Howard

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Theodore Nelson

street & number 3992 Old Columbia Pike telephone no.: (410) 465-6726

city, town Ellicott City state and zip code Maryland 21043

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County liber 1059

street & number 8360 Court Avenue folio 264

city, town Ellicott City state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. HO-623

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Located on the north side of Old Columbia Pike, this 2 1/2 story house stands on 17 acres, the largest lot along the Pike between Ellicott City and Montgomery Road, and reflects the rural atmosphere that once existed on the outskirts of Ellicott City. The house is surrounded by mature trees and the rear of the property is a thickly wooded stream valley.

Probably built in 1929, the house is square, 3 bays by 3 bays with an ell. Clad in aluminum siding over clapboard, the house has a high hipped roof and gabled cross dormers.

Windows are arranged symmetrically on the south, or front, facade. Paired windows surround the main door with sidelights and on the second floor two paired windows flank a single window. The four dormers all have paired windows. Single windows are arranged symmetrically on the east and west sides and the wall plane of the east side is broken by a bay window on the south corner.

A full-width front porch is supported by three rounded columns joined by a plain balustrade. The porch rests on brick piers and a lattice apron fills the spaces between the piers.

The one-story gabled ell is two bays by two bays and joins the main bloc on the west corner of the north wall. A screened porch on concrete piers with an apron extends from the east corner of the north wall and a door is located in between.

The house sits on an earlier raised random fieldstone foundation. Three small sliding windows are located in the foundation on the east side and three on the west side. The house has an asphalt roof and a large exterior brick chimney is located on the west wall near the south corner.

The property has two significant outbuildings which were part of a mid-19th century farmstead on the site: a gable-roofed board and batten carriage house and a hipped roof stone smokehouse. The stone foundation of a bank barn now encircles a swimming pool.

8. Significance

Survey No. HO-623

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1929 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Although it is covered with aluminum siding the house retains its overall architectural integrity and along with its intact outbuildings is an important example of early 20th century architecture in Howard County.

Statement continued. See attached sheet.

3992 Old Columbia Pike
HO-623
Significance Statement Continued

This house is significant as an example of early suburban development in Howard County and is part of an important intact corridor on the outskirts of Ellicott City lined with other early 20th century houses.

Unlike many Baltimore region counties where housing construction exploded with the arrival of the railroad, Howard County had relatively little railroad-related growth. In the early 1900s, Ellicott City was served by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and was the terminus for a United Railway and Electric Streetcar Company line, yet a surprisingly small amount of commuter oriented residential development occurred.

The property can be traced to David Fulton who owned the land in 1860. His estate was one of only three properties between Ellicott⁴ City and the former crossroads village of Hilton along Old Columbia Pike near Montgomery Road. The property remained in the Fulton family until 1915. The last member of the family to own the land was David M. Fulton who ran Carlin and Fulton, a hardware wholesale business in Baltimore and used the property as a summer residence. According to a 1905 account in the Baltimore Sun, Fulton's estate was "one of the finest sites around Ellicott City." After 1915 the property was part of the Mitchell family farm that was subdivided for development in the 1920s.

The original house appears to have been lost in a fire in 1928. A local paper described the blaze as having destroyed the residence, but the wind direction saved the bank barn and garage. Although the barn no longer stands, the smoke house and carriage house/garage are in good condition and contribute to the site's historic character.

The new house was built, apparently in 1929, in an American Four Square form on an existing foundation by the Atlantic Mill and Lumber Company. Baltimore architect Bernard Evander supervised the design and construction of the \$5,533 house.

3992
Old Columbia Pike
Ellicott City Quad
HO-623
HOWARD COUNTY

