

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Orchard Development Corp. Survey Number: HO-624

Project: accessibility Agency: S/Codes

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended

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

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Located at 3979 Old Columbia Pike, Ellicott City, this two-and-a-half story frame dwelling is owned by the Orchard Development Company. The business recently converted the building from residential use to office space (which necessitates the accessibility alterations). Listed as a Howard County historic site, the building is a good representative of the American Foursquare style of architecture. John Adams, a retired railroad engineer, built the house in 1921 and established a small farm on the 7 acre parcel. Located outside Ellicott City, the property fronts onto Old Columbia Pike, a major artery into the town. In my opinion, this Foursquare embodies distinctive characteristics of type, period and method of construction. The American Foursquare successfully addressed the country's demand for housing in the early decades of the twentieth century. One of three new suburban designs of the post-Victorian period, the Foursquare provided affordable housing to the middle class and as often sold from mail order catalogues. Though not confirmed, the County believes that the building was a mail order house. This dwelling retains key elements of the Foursquare design in its hipped roof and dormer, central chimney, box configuration and one-story front porch. Based on the existing information, this office determined that the building was eligible for local significance.

*↳ the Maryland Register for its*

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MHT Inventory, compliance file

"Orchard Development Corp."

Prepared by: projectsponsor

Lauren Bowlin November 28, 1995  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

Peter S. Curtis 11/28/95  
Reviewer, NR program Date

*Comis*

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): domestic/single family dwelling

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Casciaro House  
3979 Old Columbia Pike  
HO-624

This house is located on the south side of Old Columbia Pike 100 yards from the right-of-way. This two-story American Four Square stands on a seven acre lot with a broad front lawn, formerly an orchard, and barnyard/pasture area in the rear. Built in 1921, the house retains its classic Four-Square form with its high hipped roof, central dormer and full-width front porch.

This property represents the transition from large farming operations that dominated the county's landscape throughout the 19th century to the small lot subdivisions that would characterize post-World War II development. John Adams, who built the house in 1921, retired to the farm moving from a larger farm near Atholton. A former engineer for the Pennsylvania Railroad, Adams set up a gentleman's farm, growing vegetables for his own use but also trucking some to Baltimore markets.

Casciaro House  
3979 Old Columbia Pike  
HO-624

**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

Survey No. HO-624

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name) Casciaro House

historic

and/or common Casciaro House

**2. Location**

street & number 3979 Old Columbia Pike (MD 987)  not for publication

city, town Ellicott City  vicinity of congressional district Sixth

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

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

name Sal and Cecilia Casciaro

street & number 3979 Old Columbia Pike telephone no.: (410) 461-3764

city, town Ellicott City state and zip code Maryland 21043

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County liber 1297

street & number 8360 Court Avenue folio 440

city, town Ellicott City state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. HO-624

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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.

This house is located on the south side of Old Columbia Pike 100 yards from the right of way. This two-story American Four Square house stands on a seven acre lot largely made up of broad front lawn, formerly an orchard, and barnyard/pasture area in the rear. Built in 1921 the house retains its classic Four-Square form with its high hipped roof, central dormer and full-width front porch.

The house is three bays by three bays and is frame covered with aluminum siding. The fenestration is symmetrical on the front or north facade, with two large windows surrounding the front door on the first floor and two standard windows flanking a small six-pane fixed sash window on the second floor. Two small awning windows are located in the hipped roof dormer. The east and west sides have symmetrically placed paired windows. The windows are 6/1 double-hung sash on the second floor and 1/1 on the first floor.

The hipped roof porch is supported by square columns on shingled piers, two frame the doorway and there is a cluster of three columns at each end. A plain balustrade connects the piers above a shingled apron covering concrete piers.

There are two small additions on the rear or south side of the building. a one-story one bay addition with a fixed window and a door, and a hipped roof vestibule near the west corner with concrete steps leading to a door. There is also a door on the east side of the second floor.

The building has a foundation of roughfaced cut concrete blocks and a narrow brick chimney protruding from the roof slope northwest of the center.

The property has two contributing outbuildings south of the house: a clapboard shed on a concrete foundation with a hipped asphalt roof, and a board and batten bank barn with a concrete foundation and a corrugated metal roof. One unusual feature of the barn is its front paddock walls of small coursed and dressed granite blocks. There is also a one-story asbestos covered chicken house on a concrete foundation southeast of the house.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. HO-624

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

### Specific dates

### 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.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

HO-624

Although it is clad in aluminum siding the house maintains its overall integrity and is a significant example of Prairie Box, or American Four Square design in Howard County.

Statement continued. See attached sheet.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HO-624

Howard County Land Records

Interviews with Cecilia Casciaro and Thomas McGrain (grandson of former owner)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .7

Quadrangle name Ellicott City

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Amy Worden, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning	date	November 1991
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	(410) 313-2037
city or town	Ellicott City	state	Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
 DHCP/DHCD  
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-9000  
 301-514-7690

3979 Old Columbia Pike  
HO-624  
Significance Statement Continued

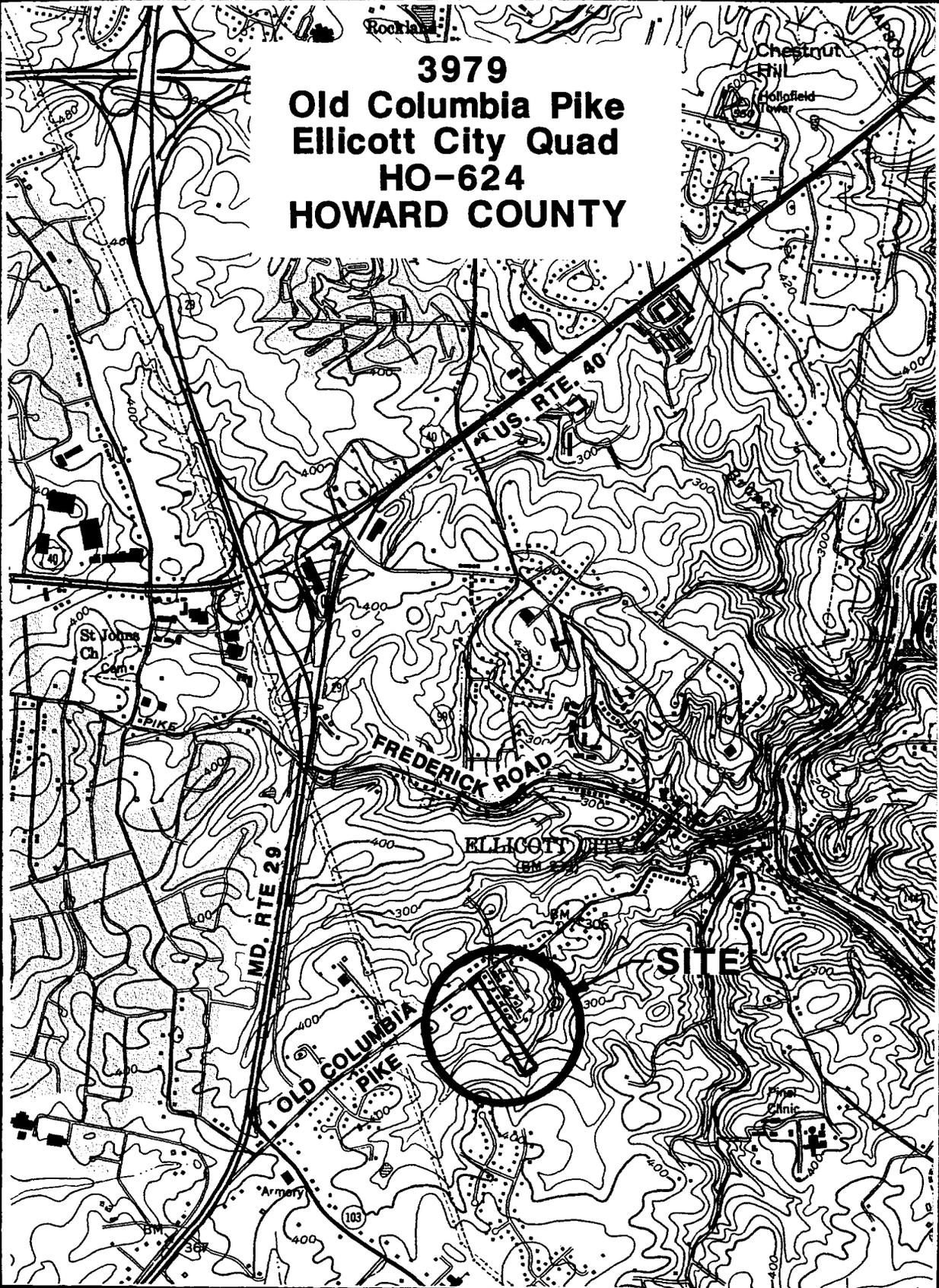
The house is significant as an example of early suburban development in Howard County.

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 surprisingly small amount of development occurred. As a result, the corridor along Old Columbia Pike between Ellicott City Historic District and Montgomery Road holds one of the few intact collections of early 20th century architecture in the county.

This seven-acre property represents the transition from large farming operations that dominated the county's landscape throughout the 19th century to the small lot subdivisions that would characterize post-World War II development. John Adams, who built the house in 1921, retired to the farm moving there from a larger farm near Atholton. A former engineer for the Pennsylvania Railroad, Adams set up a gentleman's farm, growing vegetables and fruit for his own use but also trucking some to Baltimore markets. Thomas McGrain, Adams' grandson, recalls a sprawling fruit orchard in what is now the front lawn with cherry, peach and apple trees. Adams bought the property from David Fulton whose family had owned a large estate on the north side of Old Columbia pike since at least 1860.

While no documentation has been found to it's origin, the house is very similar in style and construction to the mail order catalogue houses of the period. The house is located within a fragile rural environment. Its broad front field creates a deep setback separating the house from the busy thoroughfare. The rear pasture is flanked by two older farm buildings and buffered by a stand of mature trees.

**3979**  
**Old Columbia Pike**  
**Ellicott City Quad**  
**HO-624**  
**HOWARD COUNTY**





RE 504

1950

1951

1952

1953

1954

1955