

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HO-631

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic William Hollifield House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 8262 Old Frederick Road

not for publication

city, town Ellicott City

vicinity of

congressional district

state MD

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Charles Skirven, Jr.

street & number 5401 Twin Knolls Rd. Ste 10

telephone no.: (410) 995-0081

city, town Columbia

state and zip code MD 21045

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse

liber 3626

street & number See also: Howard County Map 18, Block 2, Parcel 1, Liber 2407/Folio 129

folio 0472

city, town Ellicott City

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. HO-631

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" 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.

See attachment "A"

8. Significance

Survey No. HO-631

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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.

See Attachment "B"

Contributing resource count --2

The William Hollifield house is situated on a hill overlooking the Patapsco River valley just north of Old Frederick Road. The house poses an impressive sight atop the hill as one enters the long driveway several hundred yards away. Once occupying approximately sixty-six acres, the house now sits on about seven. There are two large granite posts at the entrance to the property with a sign proclaiming "Hollifield's Circa 1845." The house faces South in the direction of Ellicott City and is approximately three miles from the same. The other structures on the property sit lower than the house resulting in the house being the focal point of the property. A contributing gable roofed, board and batten barn sits northwest and down the hill from the house. The other structures on the property appear to date to the Twentieth Century. The gable is oriented along an east-west axis.

Hollifield house was built in or about 1866 on an earlier stone foundation. The source of this date is from *Old Homes and Families*, page 67. A chain of title will further support an approximate date of construction. The South and West exterior elevations of the house remain mostly intact. The North and East elevations as well as the interior of the home have been significantly altered.

The main block of the house has a center hall/single pile plan and measures five bays in width. The two story house has a gable roof, no dormers and a pair of interior chimneys flanked by two windows. The main block and rear ell of brick in a seven/one common bond. The brick is set on an uncoursed rubble foundation. The foundation work is the same on the ell. The roof was replaced with fiberglass shingles during the recent renovations. There is an overhanging rake with no cornice returns. The house is in very good condition. The house was once an "ell" plan, but now, after a modern addition and renovation, the North and East elevations have been seriously altered. The alterations have also resulted in the removal of the original roof framing from over the rear ell.

The South (main) elevation is pierced by four six over six windows on the first floor. The first floor entrance is flanked by four light side lights and a four light transom above the door. Five six over six double hung windows pierce the second floor. Jack arches top the windows and a large wood lintel crowns the front door. The cornice is defined by an offset row of bricks. A modern porch stretches across the South elevation. An earlier picture and ghosts on the brick reveals a smaller, gable - roofed porch with wood posts. The new porch stretches almost the entire length of the South elevation and has four columns supporting a hipped roof.

The West elevation of the main block and the rear addition is also mostly intact. There is a small framed shed attached to the house at grade level serving as an entrance to the cellar. The West elevation is pierced by two gable three over three windows flanking the interior set chimney. Jack arches top each window. A six over six window pierces this elevation on the left side of the second floor. There are no windows on the first floor of this elevation. A small vent pierces the foundation of the West elevation of the rear ell. Three six over six windows pierce the second floor of the West elevation of the rear ell. The first floor now has a modern center window flanked by two six over six windows. The center window has a small wooden awning over it. A modern framed mudroom exists

on the back of the el. A ghost reveals that a porch and door once existed where a window and wooden awning now exists.

The modern rear addition and the mudroom occupy the North elevation. The only elevation of the rear el now visible is the West elevation. As stated previously, the roof framing over the rear el no longer exists. One large, low sloped gable roof is now framed above the original el and the new rear addition

The East elevation is pierced by two three over three gable windows flanking the interior set chimney. Jack arches top each window. There are no windows on the first or second floor. A modern addition can be seen on the North side of the East elevation. This modern addition on the rear of the home now fills in the entire area adjacent to the original rear el, converting the floor plan into a large square instead of an el.

The interior of the house has been renovated but the original plan in the front part of the house remains intact. Almost all of the interior finishes are new with the exception of the four panel doors, casement and baseboard moldings. There are rimlocks on the interior doors which appear to be modern reproductions. The entrance hall has an original stair case with a turned newel post and hand rail. There is a small closet with a board and batten door under the first floor stair case. Originally, the center hall probably lead to a door to the back yard. Now the hall leads to the modern rear addition. The floors on the first level are modern wood.

The first floor West parlor has modern built-in cupboards which hide the original fireplace. The first East parlor has a fireplace and mantle. The mantle has two simple pilasters and a mantle shelf. The second floor center bay is occupied by a modern bathroom. The room on the East contains a fireplace with a mantle with a keystone and much wider molding. The room West side of the center hall has a fireplace with a marble mantle also with a keystone which is possibly original. The original wood flooring is covered by carpeting on the second floor.

Continuing up the central staircase, the original fabric of the house becomes more apparent on the attic level where there are two East and West rooms separated by a hall and two four panel doors. As a note, there is a hatchway into the attic over the new addition which is accessible in the main stairway. The space above the new addition reveals the new framing over the old rear el and the absence of any old material or an indication of how the rear ell was framed into the main block of the house.

The attic rooms reveal the sizeable rafters framing the roof. The rafters appear to be cut by a reciprocating saw. The rafters are also etched with Roman numerals, each having its own number in a sequence. The rafters are pinioned at the ridge with wooden pegs and no ridge pole. Nailers are spaced over the rafters and probably had slate or wood shingles covering the roof. New plywood has been added over the old sheathing. The rafters are in good condition and are supported by modern lumber in a few places. Cut nails are present throughout the old nailers. The rafters are cut to lay squarely on the top plate. The rafters at one time had been plastered as the marks from the lathe are

evident. Some plaster remains on the interior chimneys. The attic rooms were finished at one point. The original wide plank, tongue and groove flooring is evident on this level and on the stairs leading to the attic area.

A modern kitchen and a bathroom occupy the rear el on the first floor. A bedroom occupies the second floor.

A cellar exists on the West side of the house. The cellar houses the mechanical systems for the house and a large furnace which supplies water to the radiant baseboard heaters. Large floor joists run front to back on this side of the house. Across the center hall, the floor joists change direction and run perpendicular to the joists in the rooms on either side. These center joists are joined to the side joists with a mortise and tenon joint and then pinned with a dowel.

Among Hollifield House's unique features is its placement upon the hill, resulting in an almost three hundred and sixty degree view of the lower lying Patapsco River. Since Hollifield's first house was washed away in a flood, it is no wonder why he built it on the top of a hill and of brick. But the commanding view from the house, and the view of the house upon approach results in a stunning effect.

One of the remaining out buildings is a small bank barn which appears to be contemporary with the house. The barn sits on an uncoursed rubble foundation similar to the house's foundation. The barn is a gable roofed, board and batten structure with a small cupola in the center of the roof. A corrugated metal roof tops the barn. Non-contributing additions were made to the lower part of the barn and it is now used by a local landscape contractor. The exterior of the barn has been altered in several ways including the addition of a modern front entrance obscuring the original barn doors. The barn faces West with the gable on a North-South axis. There are cut nails holding the board and batten siding in place. The siding was cut using a large circular saw.

There are plans to construct a housing development which would result in the demolition of the barn.

The main significance of the house and surrounding property is tied to the economic development of region. The Hood brothers, one of the original families to area, used the adjacent site to construct one of the first mills in the region. Later, one of the Ellicott brothers bought the site and turned it into very productive mill settlement. At least since 1835, and possibly earlier, there was a structure or house where the current Hollified house now stands. The house is examined as a contributing resource to an historical center of the local economy.

At least since 1905, the area once occupied by Ellicott's upper mills and the house of William Hollifield, has been mistakenly identified as "Hollofields." The economic significance of Hollifields stretches back to the Eighteenth Century as one of the earliest milling operations in the area. "Of the settlements that have disappeared over the years, Hollifields, located where the Old Frederick Road (Route 99) crosses the Patapsco, was of unique importance as one of the first milling operations in Upper Arundel and the predecessor of historic Ellicott's Mills." (*Old Homes and Families*, pg 65).

The area was first developed by the Hood brothers and was known as Hood's Haven. A mill was built around 1768. "Benjamin Hood, son of Samuel Hood, of England, was the first known settler upon the Patapsco as far west as Hollowfield's," (*Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard County*, Warfield, pg 500). The property was later sold to Joseph Ellicott in 1774, whereupon he replaced Hood's mill with his own. The area became known as Ellicott's upper mills. Joseph built a store, houses and a mansion known as Fountainvale. During the expansion West, travelers used the Old Frederick Road and so Ellicott placed a clock in the gable of his house to aid the passers-by. "Over this road that passed Hollifields goods were first carried on pack horses. It was followed later by immense wagons drawn by eight horses," (Ibid).

In 1840, William Hollifield purchased the sixty-six acre farm overlooking the Patapsco valley. He then purchased an adjoining seven acre site and built his home upon the foundation of an earlier house. Further significance of the site is illustrated by the claim that the earlier house was used as a social gathering place. "The new house rose on the foundation of an earlier home, where the local gentry held dances." (Ibid). Shortly after the house was built, the B&O built a railroad station near the Ellicott's upper mills and called it Hollifield station. An early burial plot lies along the B&O where Hoods, Ellicotts and Hollifields are buried, just North of house and the Ellicott's upper mills.

The house appears to have been built on its present site in 1866 and was sold a year later to James A. Gary. The Hopkins Map of 1878 shows George Hollifield as the occupant. James A. Gary, resident of Baltimore City, is listed as a Cotton Manufacturer. The family to have occupied the house for the longest period of time is the Donaldson Family, who in 1995, sold their last rights and interest in the property to Charles Skirven.

The current owner plans to subdivide the property and build houses. The house and its surrounding seven acres probably will not be threatened and there are no plans to demolish the house. The remaining one hundred and sixty acres will be subdivided and the adjoining barn will probably

be eliminated. The key to developing this historic property is to not let the house be obscured by new houses. If the William Hollifield house can remain the focal point as one approaches from Old Frederick Road, the character of the site will be saved. This old house should remain the centerpiece of Hollifields.

(SECOND DISTRICT)

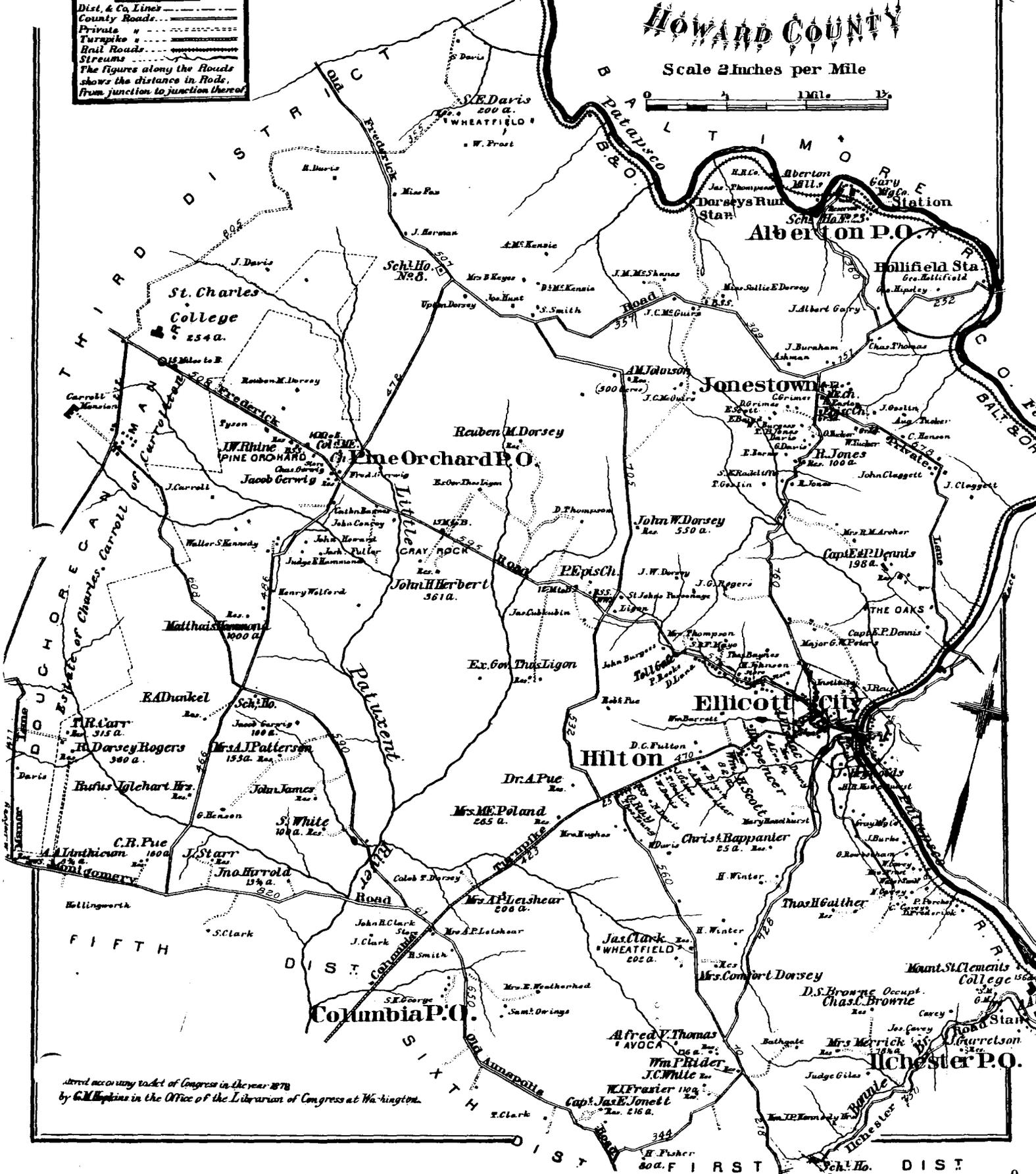
HOWARD COUNTY

Scale 2 Inches per Mile



EXPLANATIONS

Dist. & Co. Lines
 County Roads
 Private
 Turnpike
 Rail Roads
 Streams
 The figures along the Roads shows the distance in Rods, from junction to junction thereof



Revised according to act of Congress in the year 1878
 by G.M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.



HO 631

1 of 6

William Hollifield House

Howard County, MD

David T. Robinson

Nov 23, 1996

5251 Bambury Ct

Frederick, MD 21703

South Elevation of Wm Hollifield House

DEC 96 233 NNNN 4.---



H0 631

2 of 6

William Hollifield House
Howard County, MD

David T Robinson

Nov. 23, 1996

5251 Bamberg Ct

Frederick, MD 21703

South and East Elevation of Wm Hollifield House

DEC 96 233 NNNN 3.---



HO 631

3 of 6

William Hollifield House
Howard County MO

David T. Robinson

Nov 23, 1996

5251 Gamburg Cr

Fredrick, MO 21703

West Elevation of Wm Hollifield House

DEC 96 233 NNNN

2.---



HO 631

4 of 6

William Hollifield House

Howard County MD

David T. Robinson

Nov 23, 1996

5251 Bamberg Ct

Frederick, MD 21702

West Elevation of William Hollifield House

DEC 96 233 MNNH 6.-----



H0631

5 of 6

William Hollifield House

Howard County, MD

David T. Robinson

Nov. 23, 1996

5251 Bamberg Ct

Frederick, MD 21703

DEC 96 233 NNNN 5.---

North Elevation of William Hollifield
House



HO 631

6 of 6

William Hollifield House
Howard County MO

David T. Robinson

Nov. 23 1996

5251 Bamburg Ct

Frederick, MO 21703

East 2nd Floor Room looking toward

DEC 96 233 MNNN 8.----

Center Stair

4 panel door