

Pfeiffer House  
3887 Old Columbia Pike  
HO-632

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This house is significant as an outstanding example of Georgian Revival architecture and as part of Ellicott City's first early 20th century planned suburban development.

Originally this property was part of land owned by the Kraft family who ran a successful slaughterhouse and retail butchery in downtown Ellicott City. In 1915 John Kraft sold the property adjacent to the slaughterhouse to the Thrift Land Company, which promptly subdivided the land into 55 lots that were 40 by 110 feet. Kraft held lots number 4 through 9 between Hunter and Woodrow Streets for himself and built the house in 1917. Kraft was a member of the elite merchant class in Ellicott City who were able to afford property on the hillsides above the downtown.

Pfeiffer House  
3881 Old Columbia Pike  
HO-632

**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-632

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

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

historic

and/or common Pfeiffer House

## 2. Location

street & number 3887 Old Columbia Pike (MD 987)  not for publication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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name William Pfeiffer, Jr.

street & number 3887 Old Columbia Pike telephone no.:

city, town Ellicott City state and zip code Maryland 21043

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County liber 458

street & number 8360 Court Avenue folio

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-632

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 south side of Old Columbia Pike immediately south of Woodrow Street, this 2 1/2 story Georgian Revival house was built in 1917. Constructed of brick laid in a Flemish bond, the gabled-roof house displays a traditional symmetrical Georgian massed form with a five-bay eaves front orientation. The house has a projecting round arched portico surmounted by a pedimented gable and supported by round columns. The door has a flattened arch fanlight and sidelights with leaded glass design in diamond shapes. Directly above the portico is a three part window with a splayed arch lintel and keystone. The cornice is decorated with a band of dentils. Three prominent gabled-roof dormers, with pilasters framing the surrounds and an interlocking Gothic arch design, punctuate the roof slope. All of the windows, except those in the sun room are double hung 6/1 sash and are topped by splayed arch lintels with keystones and flanked by louvered shutters.

The house is two bays deep and has a one-story hipped-roof sun room adjacent to the east side. A band of windows divided by brick columns wraps around the one bay by two bay addition. The room is raised and rests on brick piers with lattice apron connecting them. The south side windows are arranged asymmetrically on the wall and there is a small enclosed porch in the east end. The fenestration is symmetrical on the east and west sides with paired windows in the gable. On the west end of the roof ridge is a small narrow corbelled brick chimney. The house has a slate roof.

Two outbuildings built about the same era are located east of the house: a weatherboard shed with a cement block foundation and a gabled-roof brick garage laid in Flemish bond on a stone foundation.

The property is bounded by a group of mature trees which surrounds the house.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. HO-632

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**

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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.

A fine example of Georgian Revival architecture, the house is in and part of early 20th century development along Old Columbia Pike.  
Statement continued. See attached sheet.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HO-632

Howard County Land Records  
Interview with Laura Harrison

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .541

Quadrangle name Ellicott City, MD

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

Tax Map 25  
Parcel 30

### 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

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 21032-2023  
301-514-7600

3887 Old Columbia Pike

~~HO-623~~ HO-632

Significance Statement Continued

This house is significant as an outstanding example of Georgian Revival architecture and as part of Ellicott City's first early 20th century planned suburban development.

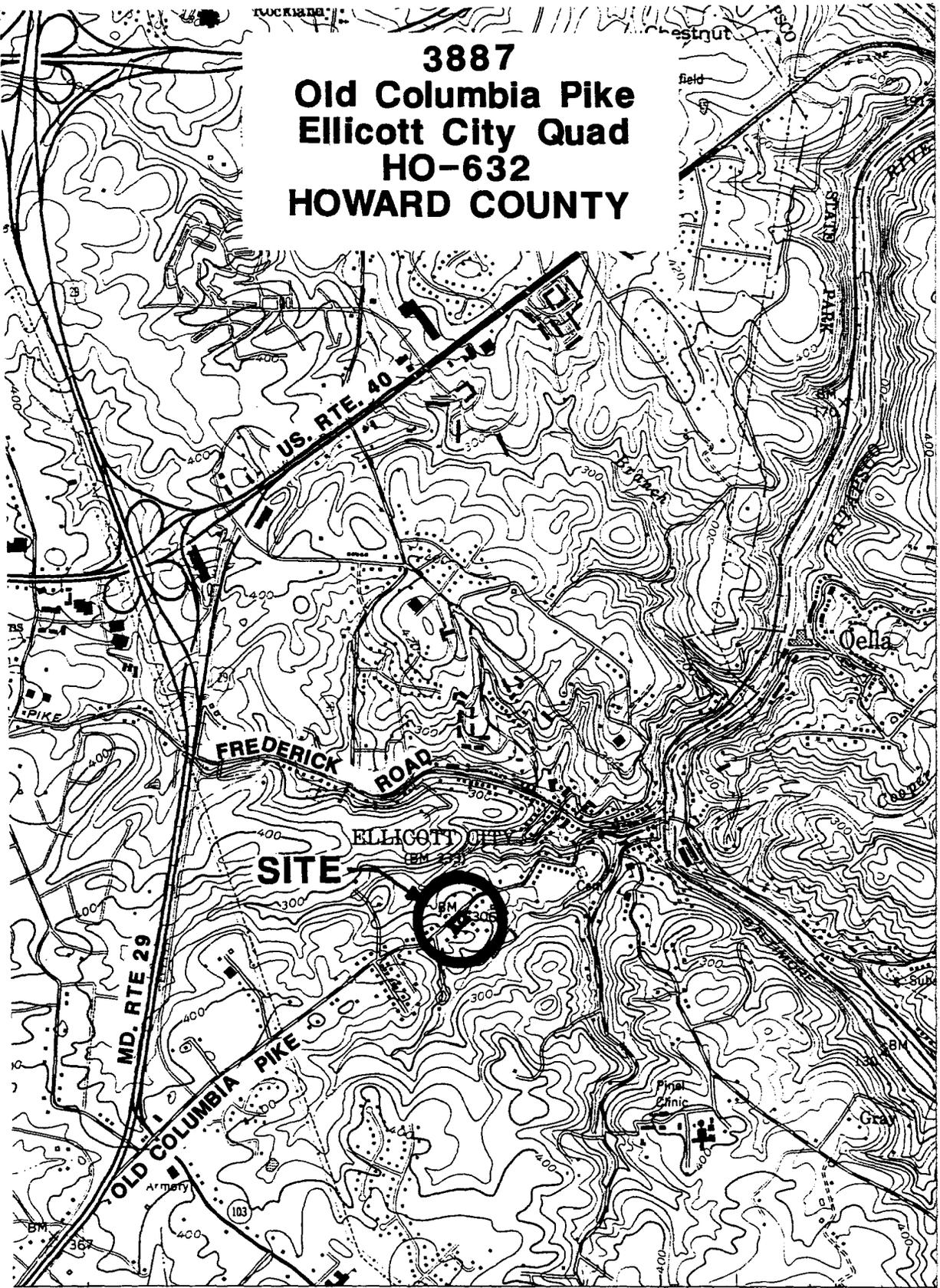
Originally this property was part of land owned by the Kraft family who ran a successful slaughterhouse and retail butchery in downtown Ellicott City. In 1915 John Kraft sold the property adjacent to the slaughterhouse to the Thrift Land Company, which promptly subdivided the land into 55 lots that were 40 by 110 feet. Kraft held lots number 4 through 9 between Hunter and Woodrow Streets for himself and built the house in 1917. Kraft was a member of the elite merchant class in Ellicott City who were able to afford property on the hillsides above the downtown.

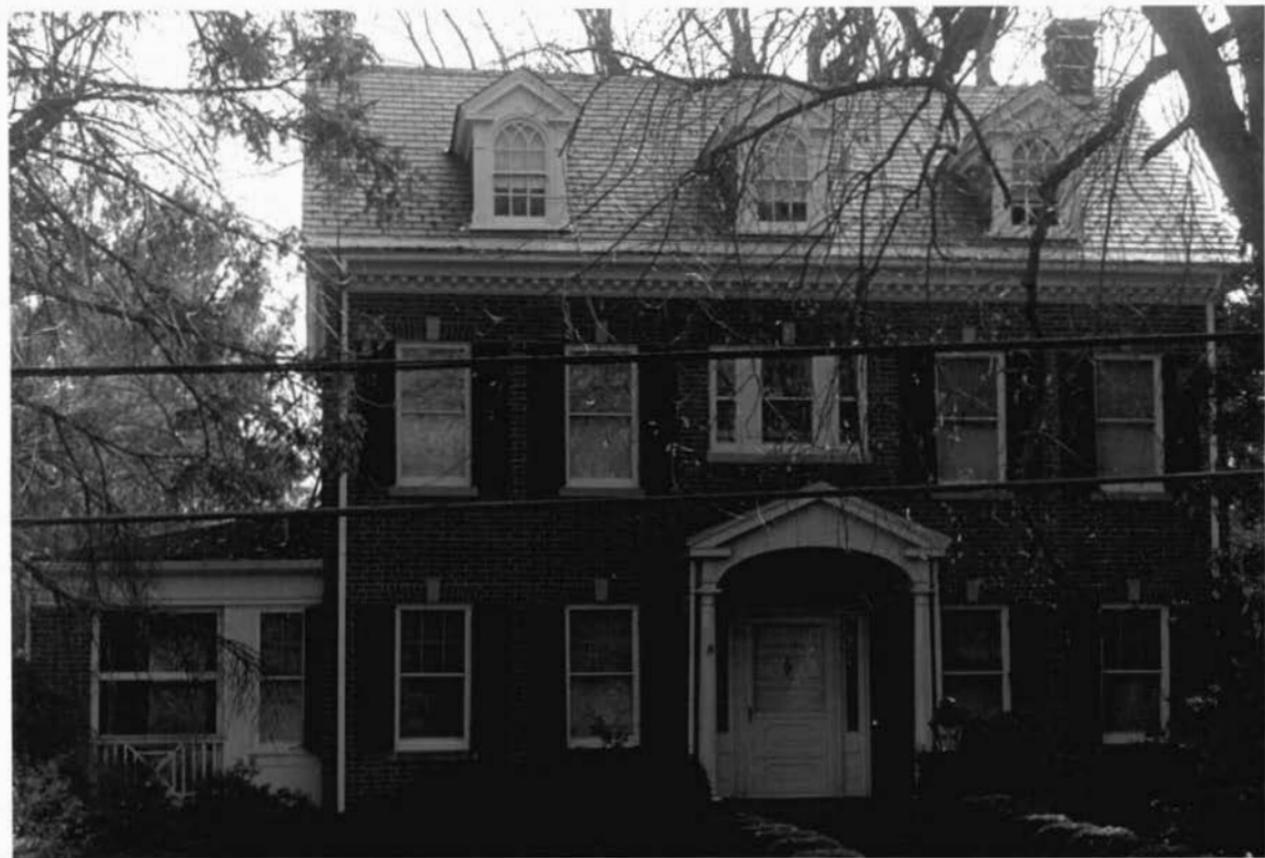
Had the economy improved, Kraft might have wound up living in a jam-packed housing development. The proposed Patapsco View subdivision was designed as a dense compact neighborhood served by three new streets laid out in a grid pattern off Old Columbia Pike. Although it was touted as an "elite residence section with restrictions to that end," Patapsco View more closely resembled mill town housing of the 19th century. Given the size of the lots, Patapsco View was probably envisioned for working class families who would commute by foot to the Ellicott City mills.

But the development never materialized in the grand fashion proposed. Only about 7 houses were built on the property and these were not constructed as a unit, but were built by individuals between 1915 and 1940. Hunter and Woodrow Streets were laid out, but Catalpa Lane that was supposed to run parallel to Old Columbia Pike was never built.

The house remained in the Kraft family until 1944 when it was sold to Horace Shepperd who ran a taxi cab service in Ellicott City. In 1966 Shepperd sold the property to William Pfeiffer.

**3887**  
**Old Columbia Pike**  
**Ellicott City Quad**  
**HO-632**  
**HOWARD COUNTY**





100-152

3827011.C - JUBAIA 1984

H. 226

A. 100

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