

HO-805, Hobbs House
6181 Old Washington Road, Elkridge
Howard County
Ca. 1850
Private

CAPSULE SUMMARY

The two and a half story, single pile brick house at 6181 Old Washington Road has been heavily altered but remains one of the most interesting houses on this stretch of the old Washington Turnpike. It rests on a rubble stone foundation facing north on the south side of Old Washington Road. The house currently occupies a very small lot and sits close to the edge of the road. The tall and narrow house is only three bays wide and capped with a side gabled, asphalt shingle roof. The house is laid in a 7:1 common bond and has a corbelled brick cornice. The east and south facades of the structure are stuccoed and painted white while the north (front) and west facades are only painted. A two story cross gabled brick addition was made to the rear of the house around 1945 and at that time the original portion of the house was heavily altered. A frame porch on the rear of the addition has been enclosed with asbestos siding.

The Hobbs House at 6181 Old Washington Road is significant under criteria C in the area of architecture. The building dates to ca. 1850, a time when the Washington Turnpike was the main travel route for people on horseback, foot or wagon, and Elkridge, aided by the arrival of the railroad, was a thriving town. The building is one of only two or three remaining along Old Washington Road from this era.

Maryland Historical Trust

Inventory No. HO-805

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Hobbs House

other

2. Location

street and number 6181 Old Washington Road not for publication

city, town Elkridge vicinity

county Howard

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

name Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Nedzel

street and number 6181 Old Washington Road telephone

city, town Elkridge state MD zip code 21075

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse tax map and parcel: Map 38, P 657

city, town Ellicott City liber 501 folio 184

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
 Other Old Washington Rd. Survey Dist

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1	2
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic		
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1	2
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
			0	

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-805

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

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

The two and a half story, single pile brick house at 6181 Old Washington Road has been heavily altered but remains one of the most interesting houses on this stretch of the old Washington Turnpike. It rests on a rubble stone foundation facing north on the south side of Old Washington Road. The house currently occupies a very small lot and sits close to the edge of the road. The tall and narrow house is only three bays wide and capped with a side gabled, asphalt shingle roof. The house is laid in a 7:1 common bond and has a corbelled brick cornice. The east and south facades of the structure are stuccoed and painted white while the north (front) and west facades are only painted. A two story cross gabled brick addition was made to the rear of the house around 1945 and at that time the original portion of the house was heavily altered. A frame porch on the rear of the addition has been enclosed with asbestos siding.

The front façade of the house shows several major alterations. Currently, the first story of the façade contains a central entry flanked by a window on either side. All of the windows in the house are vinyl replacements and the door is also not original. All of the openings are capped with flat brick arches. However, two courses above and slightly offset from the door opening is another flat brick arch; this one is more finely executed than the other existing arches and the bricks are gauged to give the arch a more distinct splay. On the far left of the façade there is a large patch in the masonry where a door used to be; this patch does not have a flat brick arch at the top of it. On the second story, there are currently two windows in the end bays and a blank central bay, and the half story above features two smaller windows (probably held 3/3 wood sash originally) vertically aligned above the existing second floor windows. The central bay on the second story is currently blank but does contain a flat brick arch indicating that it used to hold a window. Like the extra arch above the door below, the flat arch on the second story is also gauged with a more distinct splay than the flat arches currently capping the windows. The second story flat arch is also vertically aligned above the extra arch on the first story. The left most window on the second story is vertically aligned above the door patch on the first story. A full width, single story, hipped roof front porch spans the front of the house and is supported by chamfered square posts. The floor of the porch is poured concrete. The only other decoration on the front façade is a corbelled brick cornice.

The fenestration of this façade has obviously been altered. It seems likely that, in addition to moving the door around, the window openings have been enlarged to accommodate standard size replacement windows. The sills of all the windows have all been replaced with header brick sills; they were probably originally wood, or possibly stone. Since the existing flat brick arches over the various openings are sloppy in comparison to the two extra arches over closed openings on the first and second stories (and since the one on the second story is several courses below the existing tops of the windows), it seems likely that the tops of the openings had to be altered as well and the arches relaid. It is hard to say where the original front door was. It seems likely, given the probable interior arrangement of space (see below), that the door would have been in one of the side bays rather than in the middle. The closed door opening on the left may be the original opening since it is vertically aligned below the second and half story openings. The fact that it has no flat arch, however, does make that conclusion more tentative.

The east and west side facades of the original structure were originally blank and there were interior brick end chimneys running up both walls. The chimneys have been removed and windows have been added to the first and second floors (one on each floor on the east façade and one on the first floor only on the west façade). The rear addition has two windows on each floor and an exterior brick stovepipe chimney on the east façade and one window on the second story and paired windows on the first story of the west façade. The west façade also holds two awning type windows in the basement level. The east façade of the entire house has been stuccoed but the west façade has only been painted and the seam between the original section and the addition is apparent.

The rear façade of the original structure is almost totally concealed behind the 1940's addition but since the addition is only two stories high compared with the 2 ½ stories of the original structure, the half story is still visible and retains its two small window openings. The windows are vinyl like the rest of the windows in the house but the openings probably originally contained 3/3 sash. The corbelled brick cornice matching the one on the front façade is also still visible on the rear of the original building. The

Maryland Historical Trust

Inventory No. HO-805

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Hobbs House

Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

addition has a very low pitched gabled roof (perpendicular to the roof on the original house), two windows on the second story and an enclosed back porch across the first story. There is also exterior access to the basement beneath the addition.

The interior of the house has been drastically altered. The first story of the original section of the house is now one large open space with the stair to the second floor rising from the back left corner of the room. The stair has a square boxy newel which is stylistically compatible with the 1930's or 1940's renovation. Neither of the end fireplaces remain. Doorways on the back wall now lead into the 1940's addition containing the kitchen. On the second floor, the space is divided into two rooms and an arched opening in the back wall leads down two steps into a hall with a bathroom and two bedrooms off of it. Stairs to the half story above rise out of the back corner of the west room. The half story is also divided into two rooms with sloping ceilings. Unfortunately, no original trim remains in the house and carpet, paneling, and wallpaper conceal much of the original surfaces. The current owner, Mrs. Nedzel, reports that when she was redoing the front room on the first story (the original portion of the house), she found evidence that the stair originally ran up the back wall of the house. It seems very likely that the first story was also divided into two rooms since there was a fireplace on each end wall. The second story was also divided into two rooms; it is unclear how the current partitioning relates to the original division of space. Both of the second story rooms were also heated by fireplaces.

Unfortunately, the original portion of the house has no basement and the small access door to the crawl space was blocked so it was not possible to examine the structural components of the house for dating evidence. In addition, since the half story is finished with plastered walls and wood floors, no construction evidence can be determined from the roof either.

The house now rests on a small lot and no historic outbuildings are associated with the property. There is a garage and a shed behind the house, both of which date to at least the mid 20th century.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-805

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1850 **Architect/Builder** unknown

Construction dates ca. 1850, 1945

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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Hobbs House at 6181 Old Washington Road is significant under criteria C in the area of architecture. The building dates to ca. 1850, a time when the Washington Turnpike was the main travel route for people on horseback, foot or wagon, and Elkrige, aided by the arrival of the railroad, was a thriving town. The building is one of only two or three remaining along Old Washington Road from this era.

The Hobbs House, along with the George W. Hobbs House and Store next door, was probably constructed by George W. Hobbs around 1850, but it may date slightly earlier. The 1860 Martenet map of Howard County shows two buildings close together in approximately the location of the existing buildings and the words "G. Hobbs" and "store" are written beside and above them. The building at 6181 is presumed to be the western-most of the two buildings shown, while the building immediately to the east on the map is presumed to be HO-804, 6179 Old Washington Road. Deed evidence reveals that these two buildings were on the same parcel and were both owned by the Hobbs family for the entire second half of the 19th century. One might assume from the map that one building was a dwelling while the other was a store. However, physical evidence suggests that neither of the existing buildings was used entirely as a store; both were used for domestic purposes, at least in part. It is believed that the building at 6179 Old Washington Road was used as both a residence and a store because of the apparently original two front doors and the large size of the building. The structure at 6181 seems better suited as a modest dwelling.

A deed trace revealed that the house has spent most of its life under the care of two families. The house and the half acre it rests on are currently owned by Mrs. Cecilia Nedzel, the daughter of Andrew and Caroline Wesolowski who purchased the property in 1945. It was the Wesolowskis who added the two-story addition on the rear of the building and made many of the interior alterations. The Wesolowskis purchased the property from the Buchsbaums and the Skippers who both seemed to own the property for a very short time. Allen Shipley, a widower, sold the property to Henry Buchsbaum in 1937. Shipley had purchased the 105 square perches of land (roughly equal to 0.65 acres) "improved with a brick dwelling house, etc." from George and Lectora Hobbs and Virgil and Sadye Hobbs in 1920. The eastern boundary of the property is described as a board fence "on the easterly side of the brick dwelling house." The George W. Hobbs who sold the property to Shipley was the third George W. Hobbs to own the property. He had inherited it from his father, George W. Hobbs (Jr.) who had purchased it from the estate of his father, George W. Hobbs (Sr.), in 1897. The first George W. Hobbs purchased 50 acres in Elkrige on the southern side of the turnpike in 1850 from Henry Weaver. The 1897 deed from William Eareckson, executor for the deceased George W. Hobbs, to the deceased's son indicates that the 105 square perches of land are part of the 50 acres purchased by Hobbs in 1850. The chain of title is a bit muddled, however. Deed research on the property next door (HO-804, George W. Hobbs House and Store) indicates that on the same day that Eareckson sold the 105 perches and brick dwelling house to George W. Hobbs Jr. stating that it was part of the 50 acres purchased by Hobbs Sr. in 1850, Eareckson also supposedly sold the same 50 acre parcel purchased by Hobbs in its entirety to A. Eliza Guyton, Hobbs Sr.'s daughter. The metes and bounds of the two parcels clearly overlap in these two deeds and it is

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No HO-805

Name Hobbs House

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

unclear how this confusion resolved itself (compare the two deeds recorded in Liber 67, Folio 638, Eareckson to Hobbs and Liber 68, Folio 214, Eareckson to Guyton).

The deed evidence does not offer conclusive evidence about when the brick dwelling was constructed. George W. Hobbs Sr. bought the 50 acre property in 1850 for \$1300 from Henry Weaver. Weaver purchased it from the Dawsons three years earlier for \$950. It seems likely that Weaver constructed something on the property during his ownership to warrant the \$350 price increase; it may have been the brick dwelling in question. The overall form of the building, tall, narrow and only one room deep with two interior end chimneys seems slightly earlier than the George W. Hobbs House and Store next door which was probably constructed in the early 1850's. The same exterior technology is employed, however, in the two buildings with the 7:1 common bond and the corbelled brick cornice. Unfortunately, it was not possible to see any of the framing members of the Hobbs House. If they were all sash sawn, as opposed to the mixture of sash sawn and circular sawn found next door, a pre-1850 date could be assigned to this building with greater confidence. Without that evidence, this building is assigned a ca. 1850 date based on the 7:1 common bond (which occurs more often post-1850) and the corbelled brick cornice (occurring more often between 1825-1850).

The house is named the Hobbs House since it remained in the Hobbs family for 70 years, although it is possible that it was built before George W. Hobbs purchased the land and it is not known if George W. Hobbs Sr. ever lived in the house. He purchased a lot of property around the Elkridge - Hanover Road area in the second half of the 19th century, and if he did in fact live on the 50 acre parcel he purchased in 1850, it seems more likely that he would have lived in the large brick house and shop that he constructed immediately to the east in the early 1850's.

In spite of its altered condition, the Hobbs House is still an important physical presence along the old turnpike and a reminder of a time when the turnpike was the main transportation route through the area. Architecturally, it is a well-made example of an early to mid-19th century building form and is also a good example of the transitional period between several types of building technology.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-805

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.42

Acreage of historical setting 50

Quadrangle name Relay

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax map 38, parcel 657. Originally associated with 50 acre parcel but most of the acreage was subdivided off long ago.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristin Hill, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning

date 10/29/03

street and number 3430 Court House Drive

telephone 410-313-4335

city or town Ellicott City

state MD zip code 21043

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
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-805

Name Hobbs House

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Howard County Land Records, Howard County Courthouse, Ellicott City. See attached chain of title for specific libers and folios.

Hopkins, G.M. ATLAS OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND, 1878. (Ellicott City, Maryland: Howard County Bicentennial Commission, Inc., 1975).

Martenet, Simon J. MARTENET'S MAP OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND. (Baltimore, 1860.)

))

HO-805
Hobbs House
6181 Old Washington Road, Elkridge
Howard County

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANSACTION	COMMENTS
Andrew and Caroline Wesolowski		Stanley and Cecilia Nedzel		Dec. 9, 1968	501	184	Deed	Two lots in Elkridge, approximately 0.5 acres total, same lots conveyed in L398, F301
Mary Constance Colbert, unmarried		Andrew and Caroline Wesolowski, Chester Johns, Cecilia Nedzel and Jeannette Baron		April 4, 1963	398	301	Deed	Colbert gives the Wesolowskis a life estate in the property (2 lots in Elkridge, approx. 0.5 acres) with the right to sell it if they choose. If they don't sell it before they die, then it transfers to Johns, Nedzel and Baron.
Andrew and Caroline Wesolowski	Howard	Mary Constance Colbert	Howard	April 4, 1963	398	299	Deed	Two lots in Elkridge, house is on the first parcel described – 0.377 acres. Unclear why the Wesolowskis deeded the property to Colbert if she was going to immediately deed it back to them.
Henry and Margaret Buchsbaum and William and Laura Skipper	Baltimore City, and Howard	Andrew and Caroline Wesolowski	Baltimore City	August 6, 1945	186	129	Deed	Buchsbaums sold the property to Skippers who sold it to Wesolowskis. Both are party to this deed in order to ensure a clean title transfer. One lot in Elkridge on the southeast side of the Turnpike, 0.377 acres. Same land conveyed in L156, F507.

))
 HO-805
 Hobbs House
 6181 Old Washington Road, ElkrIDGE
 Howard County

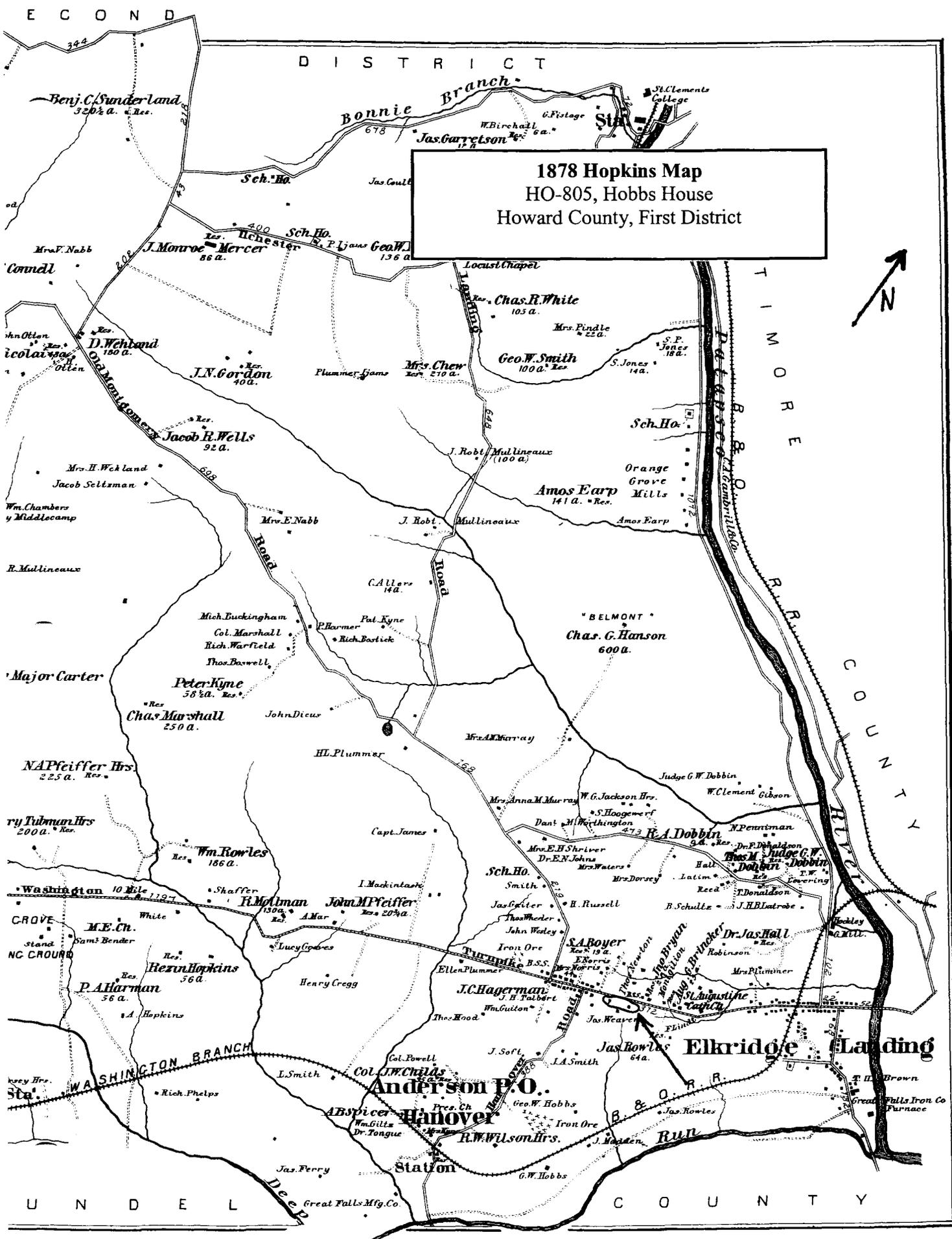
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANSACTION	COMMENTS
Allen Shipley, widower	Howard	Henry Buchsbaum	Baltimore City	April 16, 1937	156	507	Deed	Lot on the southeast side of the Turnpike in ElkrIDGE, 0.377 acres. Part of the property conveyed in L109, F155.
George W. Hobbs and wife Leadora and Virgil and Sadye Hobbs	Howard	Allen Shipley	Howard	Jan. 28, 1920	109	155	Deed	Lot on the southeast side of the Baltimore Washington Turnpike. 105 square perches of land (equal to approx. 0.65 acres). Northern boundary of the property is the turnpike, eastern boundary is a board fence on the "easterly side of the brick dwelling house." Property is "improved with a brick dwelling house, etc." Property is the northwest corner of the original 50 acre parcel bought by Hobbs in 1850. George W. and Virgil Hobbs are the sons of George W. Hobbs who bought this piece of property in 1897. The elder George Hobbs died, left the property to his wife in his will and when she died she left it to their sons.

))
 HO-805
 Hobbs House
 6181 Old Washington Road, Elkridge
 Howard County

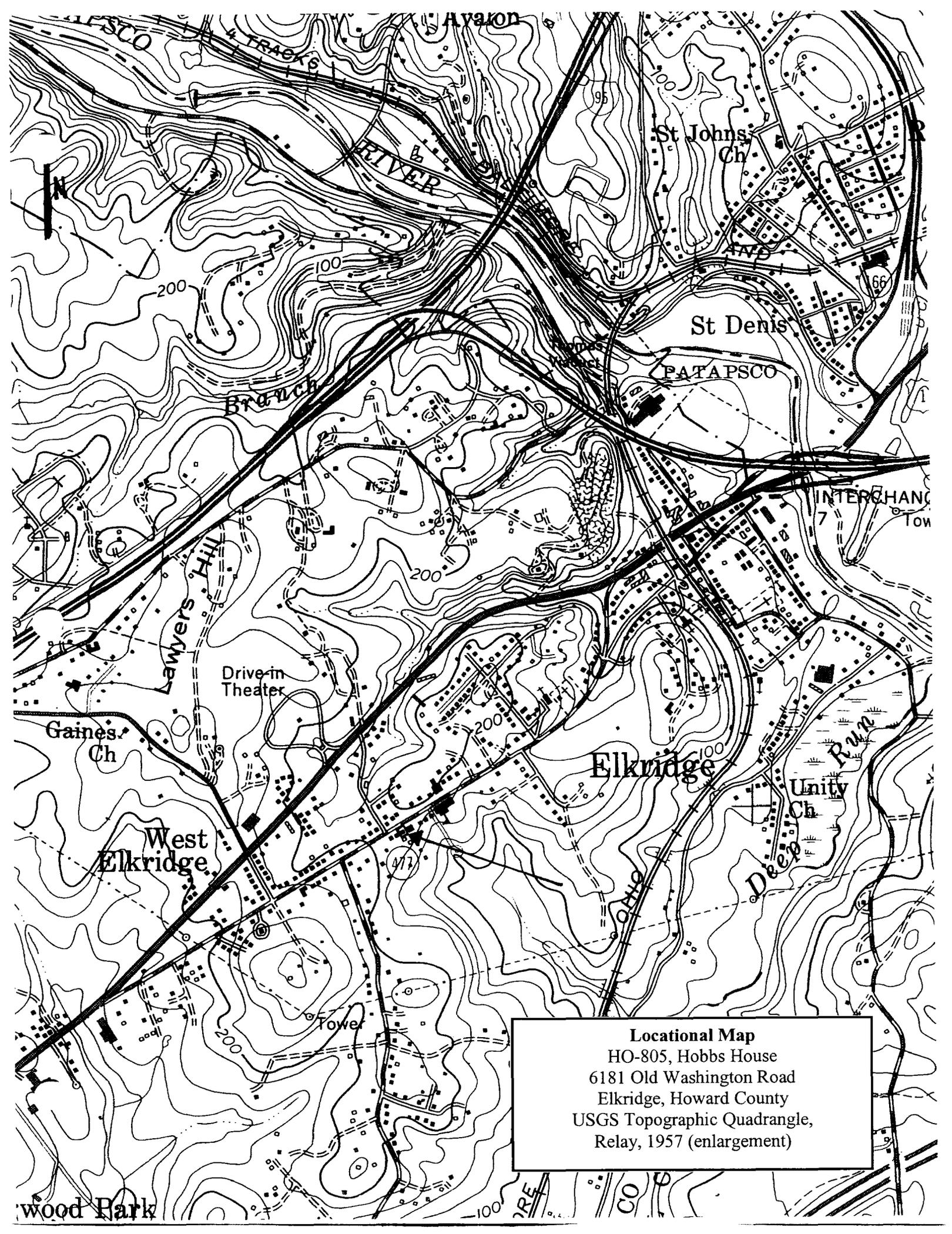
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR	HOME COUNTY	GRANTEE	HOME COUNTY	DATE	LIBER	FOLIO	TRANSACTION	COMMENTS
William Eareckson, Executor of George W. Hobbs, deceased	Howard	George W. Hobbs	Howard	Nov. 9, 1897	67	638	Deed	The deceased George Hobbs' will left several specific parcels to his family and directed that the rest of his property be sold at auction. His son, also George W. Hobbs, bought this parcel for \$400. Property is improved with a brick dwelling house, etc. and consists of 105 square perches (approx. 0.65 acres). Part of the property bought by the deceased George Hobbs from Henry Weaver in 1850.
Henry Weaver	Howard District, Anne Arundel County	George W. Hobbs	Howard District	Jan. 22, 1850	9	468	Deed	50 acres in Elkridge, part of the tract called "Hanover," property is bounded on the north by the turnpike and the south by the railroad. Purchase price of \$1300.
Robert and Richarda Dawson	Cecil	Henry Weaver	Howard District	March 18, 1847	7#2	55	Deed	50 acres in Elkridge, part of the tract called "Hanover," purchase price of \$950.



1878 Hopkins Map
 HO-805, Hobbs House
 Howard County, First District





Locational Map
HO-805, Hobbs House
6181 Old Washington Road
Elkridge, Howard County
USGS Topographic Quadrangle,
Relay, 1957 (enlargement)

wood Park



HO-805 Hobbs House

6181 Old Washington Road, Elkridge

Howard County, MD

Kn3tm Hill, 10/03

Negative at MDSHPO

North facade

1/6



HO-805 Hobbs House

6181 Old Washington Road, Elkridge

Howard County, MD

52 21+02 RHP#W 621

Kristin Hill, 10/03

Negative at MD SHPO

NW facade

2/6



HO-805 Hobbs House

6181 Old Washington Road, Elkridge

Howard County, MD

Kristin Hill, 10/03

Negative at MD SHPO

North (front) facade

3/6



HO-805 Hobbs House
6181 Old Washington Road, Elkridge
Howard County, MD
Kristin Hill, 10/03
Negative at MD SHPO
Corbelled brick cornice

4/6



HO-805 Hobbs House

c. 181 Old Washington Road, Elkridge

Howard County, MD

Kristin Hill, 10/03

Negative at MDSHPo

Closeup of existing arch over front door and earlier arch right above it. Notice that the older arch is gauged while the later arch is simply vertical bricks.

5/6



HO-805 Hobbs House
6181 Old Washington Road, Elkridge
Howard County, MD

Kristin Hill, 10/03
Negative at MD SHPO

Front (north) facade, showing alignment of 'extra' flat arch
on 2nd floor and 'extra' arch above existing door.

6/6