

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name: Weeks/Griffith House (William Griffith Antique Shop)  
 2. Planning Area/Site Number: 14/37/4 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 8  
 Laytonsville H.D. I-10  
 4. Address: Olney-Laytonsville Road (Route 108), Laytonsville

5. Classification Summary

Category <u>building</u>	Previous Survey Recording <u>M-NCPPC</u>
Ownership <u>private</u>	Title and Date: 1976 Inventory of
Public Acquisition <u>N/A</u>	Historical Sites
Status <u>occupied</u>	
Accessible <u>yes: restricted</u>	Federal <u>    </u> State <u>x</u> County <u>x</u> Local <u>    </u>
Present use <u>commercial</u>	

6. Date: c. 1874 7. Original Owner: Hezekiah Weeks

8. Apparent Condition

a. good b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This 2½ story 3 bay by 4 bay L-shaped German-sided frame house is a well constructed example of the classic central Maryland farm house. Its design features amplify similiar architectural features in Laytonsville. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash. The original roof of hand-split cedar shakes is now covered with coated standing-seam sheet metal and is constructed with return boxed eaves. There is a one story front porch facing west with a shed roof having built-in gutters. The house exhibits the balanced geometry of a center front door entering directly to the stairway with main rooms on either side, each containing a centrally located chimney. Another chimney is located in the central east end of the kitchen.
10. Significance: This house was one of a number of houses and businesses built along (present) Route 108 as Cracklintown or Laytonsville expanded during the 1870's from its former orientation along (present) Route 424. The house was the home of first a blacksmith, then owned by a carriage and coffin maker, then the home of a plumber. It is now used as an antique and refinishing shop.

Hezekiah Weeks bought 30 acres in 1874 and immediately built a new house and blacksmith shop on the property. He was a blacksmith for the Bell family and had lived in their tenant house with his family since 1867. Weeks' assistant in the blacksmith shop was a black man named Thomas Claggett who later opened his own blacksmith shop. Weeks was known as the blacksmith for "workaday projects". When Weeks rheumatism forced him to leave blacksmithing, the Claggett family continued with the farm, horse, and household trade. Weeks and his family moved to Washington, and sold the land to Edward and Annie Houck in 1904. Houck owned the carriage works next door to the blacksmith shop, building carriages and coffins, and was Laytonsville's first undertaker. The house was conveyed to Robert Magruder in 1912. He was a plumber and taught the trade to his son-in-law William Griffith. Griffith and his wife Jesse bought the house from her father in 1919. It has remained in the Griffith family ever since.

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Researcher and date researched: Anne Wolf - 9/79 | John Barrow<br>Arch. Description     |
| 12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock                         | 13. Date Compiled: 10/79             |
|   | 14. Designation Approval <u>    </u> |
|   | 15. Acreage: .7 acres                |

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 14/37/4  
Laytonsville H.D.  
MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Weeks/Griffith House

AND/OR COMMON William Griffith Antique Shop

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Olney-Laytonsville Road (Route 108)

CITY, TOWN Laytonsville VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6

STATE Maryland COUNTY Montgomery

**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 checked="" 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Dorothy (Griffith) Techter Telephone #: 926-0571

STREET & NUMBER 5405 Riggs Road

CITY, TOWN Laytonsville VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 20760

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 4765  
Folio #: 198

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20850

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE 1976  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN Rockville STATE Maryland 20855

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This two-and-a-half story three bay by four bay L shaped German-sided frame house is a well constructed example of the classic central Maryland farm house. Built about 1874 by Hezekiah Weeks, its design features amplify similiar architecture in Laytonsville. The cornerstone on the house is marked 187\_\_, with a chipped stone at the last digit.

There is a one story front porch facing west with a shed roof having built-in gutters. Also it exhibits the balanced geometry of a center front door entering directly to the stairway with main rooms on either side of the entry, each containing a centrally located chimney constructed with false mantels. The house continues along the north side eastward with a dining room and kitchen. Another chimney is located in the central east end of the kitchen.

The windows are six-over-six double-hung sash. The original roof of hand split cedar shakes is now covered with coated standing seam sheet metal and is constructed with return boxed eaves. The rafters are without a ridge pole; rather they are held in place by the horizontally hard wood slats suitable for wood shingles.

The interior of the house is plastered and the floors are 3" tongue and groove pine flooring with some random pine floors upstairs. There is also an additional staircase leading from the kitchen to the rear bedroom, which may have served as a conduit for kitchen stove heat to the upstairs or a servants quarters access. The kitchen walls have a three quarter high wainscott of unadorned pine boards nailed vertically. This rear portion of the house has a full basement. A kitchen porch with a shed roof runs along the south side of the rear section.

During the 1930's and 40's major modifications were made to the house. These include an oil-fired hot water heating system, asphalt shingles to the exterior, two baths, oak flooring on the first floor and a concrete front porch deck. The building is currently maintained in good condition as an antique shop.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES                      c. 1874                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Until the 1870's, Cracklintown or Laytonsville had consisted mainly of buildings along the road from the Monocacy to Ellicotts Mills, the east-west road now designated Route 424.

In the 1870's several families previously renting or using tenant houses purchased land along the Cracklintown to Mechanicsville Road, now Route 108. Over the next two decades, the orientation of the two changed to a north-south direction as new lots were sold along Route 108 and businesses and houses were added. This house was constructed during that period.

The land was owned during the 1840's and 1850's by the Allnutts and was part of the old "Brooke Grove" and "Addition to Brooke Grove" grants to James Brooke. After the death of John Allnutt, this part of the land passed to Warnetta Ayton. She sold 30 acres to Hezekiah Weeks in 1874, and the deed makes no mention of buildings or appurtenances.<sup>1</sup>

Hezekiah Weeks was a blacksmith for the Bell family and had lived in their tenant house with his family since 1867. He built a new house and a blacksmith shop on the property immediately.

Weeks' granddaughter, Mrs. Cuyler Duvall, sketched a plan of the Weeks property. Fifteen acres were bought by Frank Bell. The rest of the acreage eventually contained the blacksmith shop, two houses, and a tenant house on the site of the Laytonsville Elementary School. Weeks' assistant in the blacksmith shop was a black man named Thomas Claggett. After the Weeks family left for Washington, D.C. in 1900, the Claggett family operated their own blacksmith shop nearby at the intersection of Warfield Road and Route 108. This site is now the Old Barn Antique Shop.

Mr. Weeks' rheumatism made it hard for him to continue as a blacksmith, so he and his family moved to Washington and he went into government work and construction contracting. Mr. Weeks had been known as the blacksmith who did the workaday projects -- horseshoes, farm equipment and household paraphernalia. Fancier or decorative ironwork was done at Bell's wheelwright shop. The Claggett family continued with the farm, horse, and household trade.<sup>2</sup>

Edward and Annie Houck, who owned the carriage works next door to the blacksmith shop, bought the land in 1904.<sup>3</sup> Annie Houck was a cousin to Weeks' son-in-law, Frank Dwyer. Edward Houck built carriages and coffins and was Laytonsville's first undertaker. The Houcks rented the house to another Dwyer cousin, William and Rachel Dwyer.

The Houcks sold the property in parcels, conveying the house to Robert Magruder in 1912.<sup>4</sup> Magruder was a plumber, and he taught the trade to his son-in-law, William Griffith. The Magruder farm was located on

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See Attachment Sheet A

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .7 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Anne Wolf

John Barrow

Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

September 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## Weeks/Griffith House

Zion Road. When Magruder's wife died at 52, not long after moving to the Laytonsville house, he moved to Baltimore City. He is described as being a widower living there in 1919 when he sold the house to his daughter Jessie and son-in-law William Griffith.<sup>5</sup> The house has remained in the Griffith family ever since.

Robert Magruder's granddaughter, Dorothy Techter, rented the house to tenants for a short time during the 1970's and then decided to move her antiques and refinishing shop from her Riggs Road home to the house in town. This move reflects another significant change in the town as six old houses or other buildings have been converted to antique shops. Mrs. Techter has been active in promoting the development of a regional antique shop map.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., EBP 12/20 (1874).
2. Interviews with William Duvall and Cuyler Dwyer Duvall.
3. Land Records, op. cit., 176/472 (1904).
4. Ibid., 230/481 (1912).
5. Ibid., 284/41 (1919).

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Montgomery County Land and Equity Records.

Hopkins Atlas (1879).

Boyd, T.S.H., History of Montgomery County, Maryland (1879).

Interviews: Mrs. Dorothy Techter;

William Duvall (Laytonsville Bicentennial Historian)

Scrapbook of the years 1885-1895, compiled by Marian Weeks.

"The Laytonsville Area" by James C. Christopher, Montgomery County Story, Vol. V, No. 4, Montgomery County Historical Society.

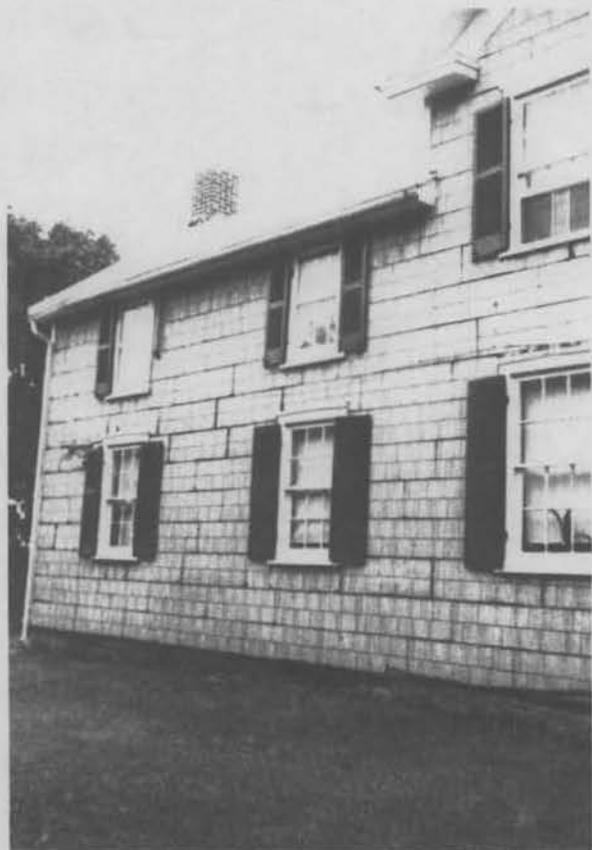


William Griffith house



View of the  
house from  
the opposite  
side of Rt. 108.

The back ell does  
not have a cellar,  
just a crawlspace.





South entrance



Cornerstone with the 1871 markings