17745 New Hampshire Avenue is located within the crossroads community of Ashton in western Montgomery County, approximately ten miles north of Washington, D.C. Ashton is one of several villages within the roughly one hundred-square miles of the greater neighborhood of Sandy Spring. Ashton, along with other crossroads communities such as, Brookeville, Brighton, Brinklow, Ednor, Norbeck, and Olney, developed as small commercial and residential centers that served the surrounding rural region. These communities had ties to the Quaker village of Sandy Spring, which offered community institutions such as banks, an insurance company, a meetinghouse, and various clubs and social groups. Located less than a mile away, Ashton had a particularly strong affiliation with Sandy Spring.

In 1860, Charles Porter and Caleb Stabler opened a general store on the southwest corner of the intersection of present-day New Hampshire Avenue (MD 650) and Olney-Sandy Spring Road (MD 108). The store was the nucleus of what would become Ashton. Other important services in the village included the shops of a wheelwright, a blacksmith, a tinsmith, a carriage maker, and a cobbler, and scales for weighing produce and livestock. The crossroads may also have been the site of a slave market. In its early years, Ashton was known as Porter’s Corner. In 1889, Ashton became the village’s official name with the establishment of a post office, which was located in the general store. The name is said to be a derivative of the names of two nearby country estates,
From the 1880s to the 1920s, more homes were built in Ashton, beginning with the construction of several Victorian-style homes, such as 17745 New Hampshire Avenue, and later with the addition of several bungalows. Ashton remained a rural crossroads until the second half of the twentieth century, when the intensifying suburban growth of Montgomery County altered the village character of Ashton. New housing developments were constructed in the Ashton vicinity and several historic buildings within the town's core were demolished. In the 1980s, a commercial strip mall was built on the northwest corner of the town's main intersection, as well as a bank and several gas stations.

During the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, 17745 New Hampshire Avenue was the home of Joseph Wallace Bond and his wife Jessie. In 1901, Bond bought the general store and ran a pharmacy and a post office in the store. In 1919, Bond sold the store to Charles E. Hill and moved his pharmacy to his residence at 17745 New Hampshire Avenue. The Bonds had nine children.

Built in 1882, 17745 New Hampshire Avenue is a two-and-one-half-story, Folk Victorian dwelling located south of MD 108 on the east side of New Hampshire Avenue. The house has a rectangular form with a front-facing cross gable and a two-story, shed-roof, rear addition. The house is two bays wide and three bays deep. The frame structure is clad in vinyl siding, and asphalt shingles cover the gable roof. There are no visible chimneys, but there is a metal flue on the rear addition. The windows have all been replaced with vinyl, one-over-one, double-hung sashes. There is a hipped-roof porch on the front façade, or west elevation, with a singular, square, wood support and a wood porch floor that is reached by three concrete steps. The front entrance door has been replaced with a modern door. There is a one-story, polygonal bay on the first story of the north elevation. There is a modern wood deck off of the rear addition, which is accessed by a modern sliding-glass door. The foundation is stone.

Current tax records list the premise address of this property as 17753 New Hampshire Avenue; however the number 17745 is still displayed on the dwelling as its street address.

In October 2006, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) received permission from the current tenant of 17745 New Hampshire Avenue to enter the premise and inspect the interior, but did not receive permission to take interior photographs. While the original floorplan of the house has not been substantially altered, the majority of the interior trim, doors, and flooring have been removed or obscured.

17745 New Hampshire Avenue is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The property is not eligible under Criterion A. While the property was associated with the late nineteenth-century residential growth of Ashton, this trend does not constitute a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Furthermore, this association in no longer apparent due to the property's lack of historic integrity. The property is not eligible under Criterion B. Though the Bonds were long-term residents of Ashton and J. Wallace Bond ran a pharmacy in his home, the activities of the Bonds are not demonstrably important within a local, state, or national context. The property is not eligible under Criterion C, as it does not embody the distinctive
characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. The building is an undistinctive example of a common, vernacular, architectural form found throughout the vicinity and lacks architectural integrity. The property is not an element of a larger significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction, such as an historic district. On January 2, 2002, the Maryland Historical Trust determined that the Ashton Survey District (M:28-7), of which 17816 New Hampshire Avenue is a part, was not eligible for the NRHP. The property was not evaluated under Criterion D.

References


Crawford, Catherine. Ashton, Maryland. Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form. Annapolis, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1984.

"Crossroads conversations with Stanley Stabler" date unknown, vertical file "Community." Sandy Spring Museum. Sandy Spring, Maryland.

17745 New Hampshire Ave.
Ashton
Montgomery County

SANDY SPRING, MD.
17745 New Hampshire Avenue
Montgomery County
M. Hess
10/2006
MDSHPO
West Elevation, View Southeast
Photo 1 of 8
M: 28-7-4

17745 New Hampshire Avenue
Montgomery County

M. Hess

10/2006

MD SHPO

West Elevation, View Northeast

Photo 2018
M: 28-7-4

17745 New Hampshire Avenue
Montgomery County
M. Hess
10/2006
MD SHPO

South and East Elevations, View Northwest

Photo 3 of 8
M: 28-7-4
17745 New Hampshire Avenue
Montgomery County
M. Hess
10/2006
MD SHPO
East Elevation, View West
Photo 4 of 8
M: 28-7-4
17745 New Hampshire Avenue
Montgomery County
M. Hess
10/2006
MD SHPO
North Elevation, View Southwest
Photo 5 of 8
M: 28-7-4
17745 New Hampshire Avenue
Montgomery County
M. Hess
10/2006
MD SHPO
North Elevation detail
Photo 60 of 8
17745 New Hampshire Avenue
Montgomery County
M. Hoss
10/2006
MD SHPO
West Elevation, Front Entrance
Photo 7 of 8
17745 New Hampshire Avenue
Montgomery County
M. Hess
10/2004
MD SHPO
Foundation
Photo 8 of 8