Swartz House HO-875 8432 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City Howard County ca. 1948 Private

The Swartz House (8432 High Ridge Road) is a 1 ½-story brick Cape Cod cottage located north of Ellicott City in an area historically known as Jonestown, in Howard County, Maryland. The house is set back from the road on a ½-acre suburban lot. Originally 1.5-acres, the property has been recently subdivided and additional houses constructed behind the house. Small suburban houses constructed in the late 1940s-early 1960s line High Ridge Road. 8432 High Ridge Road includes a house and a garage.

The Swartz House is the primary structure on the property. 8432 High Ridge Road is a 1 ½-story, 5-bay Cape-Cod cottage with a gable roof and a square footprint in good condition. The house is constructed of brick with sided gable ends and an asphalt shingle roof. Window openings have brick sills and lintels. The house retains many of its original features including its wood front door, transom and pilasters and interior floor plan. Alterations include recent replacement windows. Replacement windows have a six-over-six configuration on the front facade and one-over-one configuration on secondary facades. The original three-light cellar windows remain. A 1 ½-story gable-roofed porch, now enclosed as a den, projects from the north side of the house. A 1-story hip-roofed rear ell extends from the west elevation.

The Swartz House embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type and period of construction. The ca. 1948 Cape Cod cottage located on a "country lot", once part of Hanson family commercial orchards, embodies the effect of national housing trends on the greater Ellicott City area in the 1940-1955 period. The development of post-WWII era suburban houses is also associated with events that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Howard County's history. While Howard County was primarily rural and agricultural until the World War II era, the families of white-collar workers began to build suburban houses on small lots along roadways that were partitioned from agricultural land in the Post-war period. This early suburban development presaged the county's future as a bedroom community for Baltimore and Washington D.C. workers.

historic	Swartz Hous	se							
other	N/A								
2. Location									
street and number	8432 High R	lidge Road						not for	publication
city, town	Ellicott City							vicinity	
county	Howard Cou	untu.							
			es and mailing	addross	es of a	llowners)		
3. Owner of name street and number		(give name ux	es and mailing) address	es of a	ll owners) telephone	N/A	
3. Owner of	Property Heidi Donna Berta	(give name ux	es and mailing	address state	es of a	ll owners			043
3. Owner of name street and number	Property Heidi Donna Berta 8432 High Ridge R Ellicott City	(give name ux Road				ll owners	telephone		043
3. Owner of name street and number city, town	Property Heidi Donna Berta 8432 High Ridge R Ellicott City Of Legal Des	(give name ux Road		state		ll owners	telephone	21	043

- _____ 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 at MHT
- Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Co	unt	
district _Xbuilding(s) structure site object	public X_private both	agriculture commerce/trade defense X_domestic education funerary government health care industry	landscape recreation/culture religion social transportation work in progress unknown vacant/not in use other:	Contributing 2 0 0 0 2 Number of Co previously list	Noncont	buildings sites structures objects Total Resources

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-875

Condition

_	excellent	deteriorated
X	good	ruins
	fair	altered

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

The Swartz House (8432 High Ridge Road) is a 1 ½-story brick Cape Cod cottage located north of Ellicott City in an area historically known as Jonestown, in Howard County, Maryland. The house is set back from the road on a ½-acre suburban lot. Originally 1.5-acres, the property has been recently subdivided and additional houses constructed behind the house. Small suburban houses constructed in the late 1940s-early 1960s line High Ridge Road. 8432 High Ridge Road includes a house and a garage.

The Swartz House is the primary structure on the property. 8432 High Ridge Road is a 1 ½-story, 5-bay Cape-Cod cottage with a gable roof and a square footprint in good condition. The house is constructed of brick with sided gable ends and an asphalt shingle roof. Window openings have brick sills and lintels. The house retains many of its original features including its wood front door, transom and pilasters and interior floor plan. Alterations include recent replacement windows. Replacement windows have a six-over-six configuration on the front facade and one-over-one configuration on secondary facades. The original three-light cellar windows remain. A 1 ½-story gable-roofed porch, now enclosed as a den, projects from the north side of the house. A 1-story hip-roofed rear ell extends from the west elevation.

The primary façade of 8432 High Ridge Road faces east. The five-bay façade is symmetrical about its entry bay. The main entry is composed of the original wood four light over four-panel front door and glazed five-light transom framed by wood pilasters. A brick stoop with metal railing leads to the entry door. Two pairs of window openings flank the door. Two gabled dormers hold window openings that light the attic story. Two window openings light the cellar. The dormer windows and cellar windows are vertically aligned.

The south (side) façade of 8432 High Ridge Road is two bays wide. The basement and 1st story are brick and the attic story dormer is faced with siding. The 1st story has two window openings, which are not symmetrically placed. The western window opening is a smaller kitchen opening. A centered paired window opening lights the attic. A triangular louvered vent fills the peak of the gable. Two window openings, which are vertically aligned with the 1st story openings, light the cellar.

The rear façade of 8432 High Ridge Road faces west. The basement and 1st story are brick and the attic story is sided. The northern half of the 1st story of the rear façade is concealed by the rear addition. The southern half of the 1st story has a kitchen door opening flanked by a window opening. The back door is a nine light over two-panel door. The attic story has a single large shed-roofed dormer that extends across the entire façade. The attic dormer holds four window openings (one paired opening and two single openings) that are not symmetrically placed. A concrete stoop leads to the back door and covers a basement door. A cellar window opening is vertically aligned with the 1st story window.

A brick hipped-roof 1-story rear ell projects from the north end of the rear facade. The ell houses a 1st floor bedroom. The south elevation of the ell has one 1st story window opening. The west elevation has one 1st story opening and one basement story opening, which are vertically aligned. The north elevation of the ell has one 1st story opening.

A 1 1/2-story gable-roofed porch projects from the north facade of the Swartz House. The gable ends of the house and porch have a brick foundation and 1st story and sided gable ends. The visible, eastern, portion of the north facade of the main house has one 1st story window opening and one small attic story opening. A brick exterior fireplace chimney is centered on the gable end of the main house and pierces the roof of the porch. The brickwork on the basement and the 1st story of the porch does not match, which suggests that the porch was probably originally open and was enclosed for additional interior space in the 1950s or 1960s. The west elevation of the porch has a door opening, which holds a recent replacement door, and a window opening. The north elevation of the porch has two 1st story paired window openings and one centered attic story window opening. The east elevation of the porch has one paired window opening.

Interior

The Swartz House (8432 High Ridge Road) has a center-hall plan. The front door opens onto a central stair hall. A closet is located under the stair and circulation leads to either side of the entry hall. The living room occupies the northern half of the house's 1st floor and the dining room and kitchen occupy the southern half of the house's 1st floor. A hall behind the stair connects the living room and

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kitchen, provides a basement entry, and a door to the 1st floor bedroom. The porch, now used as a den, is located off of the living room. The 2nd floor houses two additional bedrooms and a full bathroom. The house retains many of its original features, including plaster walls, arched openings, Colonial Revival fireplace mantel, wood baseboards, wood window and door trim, wood floors, wood stair banister, and wood 2-panel doors with original hardware. The kitchen and bathroom have all new fixtures and fittings.

Garage

The Swartz house's 1 1/2-story gable-roofed brick and CMU garage is located northwest of the house. The garage has two sections. The front section has two vehicular door openings and is accessible via the main driveway from High Ridge Road. The rear section has one vehicular door opening and is accessible via a rear path. The garage was probably built in two sections.

The primary facade of the garage faces east. The primary, gable-end facade is symmetrical. The facade has a brick 1st story and the gable is sided. The 1st story has two vehicular openings, which hold recent paneled garage door. The attic story has one centered window opening that holds an original four-light wood window.

The north facade of the garage is composed of the side facade of the 2-car section and the rear facade of the 1-car section. The division line between the two sections is clearly visible, although a few bricks key the sections together. Each section has one centered window opening that holds a six-over-six wood window. An additional opening has been cut in the 2-car section to hold an air conditioner.

The west facade of the garage is composed of the end facade of the 2-car section and the side facade of the 1-car section. The visible portion of the west facade of the 2-car section has a CMU 1st story and a sided attic story. One window opening is centered in the attic story, which holds a four-light wood window. The west gable end of the 1-car section has a brick 1st story and a sided 2nd story. The facade has one centered window opening that holds a six-over-six wood sash.

The south facade of the garage is composed of the front facade of the 1-car section and the side facade of the 2-car section. The 1-car section is stepped back from the 2-car section. The south facade of the 1-car section of the garage has a vehicular opening that holds a wood paneled garage door. The south facade of the 2-car section has one centered window opening that holds a wood six-over-six window.

_ 1600-1699 1700-1799	agriculture	economics	L 10.7 P.	
1800-1899 1900-1999 2000-	archeology _X architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation	 education engineering entertainment/ recreation ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement 	 health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime history military 	 performing arts philosophy politics/government religion science social history transportation other:
Specific dates	ca. 1948		Architect/Builder	unknown
Construction da	tes ca. 1948			

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Swartz House, located at 8432 High Ridge Road, embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type and period of construction. The ca. 1948 Cape Cod cottage located on a "country lot", once part of Hanson family commercial orchards, embodies the effect of national housing trends on the greater Ellicott City area in the 1940-1955 period. The development of post-WWII era suburban houses is also associated with events that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Howard County's history. While Howard County was primarily rural and agricultural until the World War II era, the families of white-collar workers began to build suburban houses on small lots along roadways that were partitioned from agricultural land in the Post-war period. This early suburban development presaged the county's future as a bedroom community for Baltimore and Washington D.C. workers.

The Swartz House is located on what was historically the Hanson commercial orchard. By 1860, Christian Hanson, a Danish immigrant, was working as a farmhand in the Jonestown area north of Ellicott City.¹ By 1870, he had married and had three young children and two farm helpers.² His property appears on the 1878 Hopkins Atlas. By 1910, Christian and Emily Hanson's sons, Andrew and Frank were both listed as horticulturalists.³ In 1930, the multigenerational Hanson family was living in three adjacent houses on Rogers Avenue. All worked on their fruit farm.⁴ 8432 High Ridge Road is located on part of the Hanson Farm that was lost to the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation in 1938 after J. Franklin Hanson and Anna Grace Hanson, his wife, and Andrew J. Hanson and Magdalene Hanson, his wife, defaulted on a mortgage they took in 1933 during the Great Depression. In 1942, Andrew Hanson's son LeRoy and his wife Elsie bought back part of the land from the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation. In 1943, the Swartzs purchased a 1 1/4-acre house lot from Leroy and Elsie Hanson. Presumably WWII delayed construction until restrictions on new building were lifted after the war. Thomas and Gladys Swartz owned the house until 1957, when they sold to James and Margaret Turner. The Turners owned the house until 2001, when Kevin and Heidi Bertaux purchased the house with Kevin's father Alan Bertaux. The rear part of the property was partitioned off for development at that time. Alan Bertaux deeded the property to his son and daughter-in-law in the fall of 2001.

Ca. 1936-1955 Cape Cod cottages are the most common building type in the greater Ellicott City area (outside the historic district).⁵ This reflects the nation at large; the Cape Cod cottage was the most prevalent American house type of the period. As stated in the **Architectural Forum** in 1949, "The Cape Cod Cottage is perhaps the most familiar building style in all of twentieth century America.

¹ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Eighth Census of United States: 1860**, **Population Schedule**, 2nd Election District, Page 2.

² Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, Ninth Census of United States: 1870, Population Schedule, 2nd Election District, Page 50.

³ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, Thirteenth Census of United States: 1910, Population Schedule, E.D. 50, Sheet 8A.

⁴ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, Fifteenth Census of United States: 1930, Population Schedule, E.D. 14-4, Sheet 9B.

⁵ Of just over 700 buildings in the survey area, about 300 were built between 1935 and 1955. Most of these are variations of the Cape Cod cottage.

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Since the 1930's, when the modern version of this design began appearing regularly in the home magazines, it has become almost a national institution."

The defining characteristics of the Cape Cod cottage are described thus by Royal Barry Wills, an architect who wrote prolifically about and designed award-winning Cape Cods:

[The Cape Cod cottage] may be described as a smaller and simpler version of the early New England colonial house. The Cape Cod cottage was either a one-story or a story-and-a-half house, with a plain gable roof. Siding or shingle covered the walls. Usually, the front of the house was formally balanced, with the door in the center and one or two windows on each side. The doorway detail varied from the simplest sort of frame to a quiet and restrained use of pilasters and moldings taken from classical ornament. A row of windowpanes above the door or up and down each side was sometimes used. Small-paned, double-hung windows with wooden shutters were typical.

For all its small size and lack of pretentiousness, the Cape Cod cottage has a dignified sedate personality. A more satisfactory model for a small house can scarcely be found.⁶

The popularity of the Cape Cod cottage was a product of promotion by Federal Government, the popular media, and the builder, and the conservative tastes of the American consumer. The Federal government endorsed the construction of small houses and set construction and subdivision standards in the years following the Great Depression. The Cape Cod cottage was regularly featured in the house designs published in FHA's **Principles of Planning Small Houses** beginning in 1936.⁷ The standards set by the FHA had the influence to transform the typical American house because they insured mortgages that allowed Americans to buy houses with only 10-20% down payments.

Homeownership was intended to be a powerful economic engine. It was also a subtle means of social control. The Depression destabilized not only the American economy, but also American wage-earning culture in general. Homeownership was promoted as a means of fighting radical political movements:

Socialism and communism do not take root in the ranks of those who have their feet firmly embedded in the sod of America through home ownership.⁸

Veterans' housing, regulated by the FHA, reinforced these values in the year immediately after Word War II.

As the economy recovered after the Depression there was an enormous demand for new houses. During the Depression, housing starts dwindled and young couples typically either remained in the homes of their parents or moved into rental units. Between 1907 and the depression, Americans built 400,000 new dwelling units per year.⁹ In 1934, only 50,000 single family and two family houses were built nationwide.¹⁰

4. Cited in Barbara M. Kelly, Ph.D., The Houses of Levittown in the Context of Postwar American Culture.

⁹ Royal Barry Wills, Better Houses for Budgeteers: 5.

⁶ American Houses, p. 182.

⁷ David L. Ames and Linda Flint McClelland, "National Register Bulletin: Historic Residential Suburbs," 61.

⁸ A.S. Freed, "Home Building by Private Enterprise," address before the Cambridge, Massachusetts, League of Women Voters (26 February 1936): mimeograph, 3. Cited in John P. Dean, Homeownership; Is It Sound? (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1945):

¹⁰ Stewart McDonald, "The Federal Housing Administration," The Architectural Forum: 1938 Book of Small Houses," xxi.

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Name Continuation Sheet

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The American population, however, had lost confidence in their economic stability and new house buyers sought inexpensive homes that they felt sure they could hold onto even in the face of uncertain financial futures. The insecurity of the era is summed up in the introduction of **Better Houses for Budgeteers**:

We have clung to our basic living standards during the last decade of social and economic mutation: but we are changed men and women nonetheless. We find our stripped of old securities and facing a world in rapid motion toward a new and unpredictable state of equilibrium. This poses a problem in conservative, defensive living.¹¹

Furthermore, changes in American lifestyles meant that middle class families were spending less time in their homes and that working class families wanted to build houses that looked very similar to middle class houses. These trends both reinforced the popularity of small Cape Cod cottage.

Popular women's and architectural magazines promulgated the small house movement. As stated in the 1937 House Beautiful Building Manual:

Great changes have taken place in the sphere of small house building during these past two years. They were the inevitable, as everyone knew as soon as the darkest depression days were succeeded by lighter ones. There is a wholly new approach to house building....

The aesthetics of the Cape Cod cottage, and the return to the Colonial style in general, reflect the American turn to more austere styles in the post-Depression era.

Developers also felt secure providing Cape Cod cottages because they knew they would be approved for FHA mortgage insurance and conservative buyers would seek them out. As stated by Alfred Levitt, who built thousands of Cape Cods in Levittown, "The Cape Cod was and still is the most efficient house ever developed in America."¹²

¹¹ Royal Barry Wills, Better Houses for Budgeteers: 5.

¹² "The Cape Cod Cottage," Architectural Forum, v. 90 #3 (March 1949): 10.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-875

Ames, David L. and Linda Flint McClelland. National Register Bulletin: Historic Residential Suburbs. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, 2002.

Architectural Forum. Book of Small Houses, 1938.

Department of Commerce - Bureau of the Census. Census of United States: Population Schedule, 1930.

House Beautiful. Building Manual, Spring 1937.

Howard County Land Records, Dorsey Building, Columbia. See attached chain of title for specific libers and folios.

Goold, Jennifer. Interview with Heidi Bertaux.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	.5 acres		
Acreage of historical setting	1.5 acres		
Quadrangle name	Ellicott City	Quadrangle scale:	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of 8432 High Ridge Road replicates that of Howard County Map 18, Grid 13, Parcel 379, which is the buildings' historic and current legal lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Jennifer Goold, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	May 18, 2005
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

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 21032-2023 410-514-7600

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Name Continuation Sheet

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Kelly, Barbara M. "The Houses of Levittown in the Context of Postwar American Culture,"

Sharp, Henry, K. The Patapsco Valley: Cradle of the Industrial Revolution. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 2001.

Wills, Royal Barry. Better Houses for Budgeteers. New York: Architectural Book Publishing Co., Inc., 1941.

HO-875 H. 375

Swartz House 8432 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City Howard County

CHAIN OF TITLE

Grantor	Grantee	Date	Liber	folio	Transaction	Cost	Acreage	Notes
Kevin Bertaux, Heidi Donna Bertaux, and Alan Bertaux	Kevin Bertaux and Heidi Bertaux	08- 20- 2001	5710	386	Deed	0.00	28,107 sq. ft.	
James T. Turner, Trustee of the Residuary Trust of Margaret S. Turner	Kevin Bertaux and Heidi Donna Bertaux and Alan Bertaux	05- 30- 2001	5545	202	Deed	95,000	28,107 sq. ft.	
Margaret S. Turner	James T. Turner	06- 17- 1992	2576	324	Deed	0.00	1.164 acres + 17,447 sq. ft.	
James T. Turner and Margaret S. Turner	Margaret S. Turner	08- 11- 1990	2267	571	Deed	0.00	1.164 acres + 17,447 sq. ft.	
James T. Turner and Margaret S. Turner	Weaver Bros. Inc of Maryland	12- 20- 1957	309	137	Mortgage	18,500	1.164 acres + 17,447 sq. ft.	
Thomas E. Swartz and Gladys V. Swartz	James T. Turner and Margaret S. Turner	12- 20- 1957	309	135	Deed	5.00	1) 1.164 acres + 2) 17,447 sq. ft.	 Being the same lot of ground which, by deed dated April 27, 1943 and recorded in Liber 177, folio 539. See also confirmatory deed from Leroy R. Hanson and wife to the said Grantors, dated March 11, 1949 and recorded in Liber 209, folio 306. Being the same lot of ground by deed dated March 11, 1949 and recorded in Liber 209, folio 318.
Leroy R. Hanson	Thomas E.	03-	209	305	Confirmatory	1.00	1) 1.164	The parcel was conveyed by deed dated April 27 th ,

HO-875

H 375 Swartz House 8432 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City Howard County

CHAIN OF TITLE

and Elsie G. Hanson	Swartz and Gladys V. Swartz	11- 1949			Deed		acres	1943 and recorded in Liber 177, folio 538, but the deed included a defective boundary description repaired by the confirmatory deed
Leroy R. Hanson and Elsie G. Hanson	Thomas E. Swartz and Gladys V. Swartz	03- 11- 1949	209	318	Deed	5.00	17,447 sq. ft.	Part of the piece of land which by deed dated April 6, 1942 and recorded in Liber 174, folio 370 was granted by the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation to Leroy R. Hanson and Elsie G. Hanson.
Leroy R. Hanson and Elsie G. Hanson	Thomas E. Swartz and Gladys V. Swartz	04- 27- 1943	177	538	Deed	5.00	1.25 acres	Part of the piece of land which by deed dated April 6, 1942 and recorded in Liber 174, folio 370 was granted by the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation to Leroy R. Hanson and Elsie G. Hanson.
Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation	Leroy R. Hanson and Elsie G. Hanson	04- 06- 1942	174	370	Deed	3500.00	25.192 acres	1190.00 cash + 2310.00 mortgage. Being part of the same land that was conveyed to the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation by deed from James Clark, Assignee, dated June 28, 1938 and recorded in Liber 160, folio 102. Embracing and including a part of the land conveyed by the said Wesley Tucker and wife to the said Christian Hanson (1886) and the whole of the tract conveyed by the said Otho Tucker and wife to the said Christian Hanson (1878).
Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation	James Clark, Assignee	04- 01- 1938	160	102	Assignment of Mortgage	-	73.944 acres	Whereas, by Mortgage dated December 23, 1933, and recorded in Liber 147, folio 355, J. Franklin Hanson and Anna Grace Hanson, his wife, and Andrew J. Hanson and Magdalena Hanson, his wife, granted and conveyed to the Land Bank Commissioner, acting pursuant to and by virtue of the authority vested by an Act of Congress of the United States known as the Emergency Farm Mortgage Act of 1933, all those several tracts of landcontaining 73.944 acres to secure the payment of a debt for the sum of \$5,000. They defaulted on the mortgage so the FFMC

HO-875

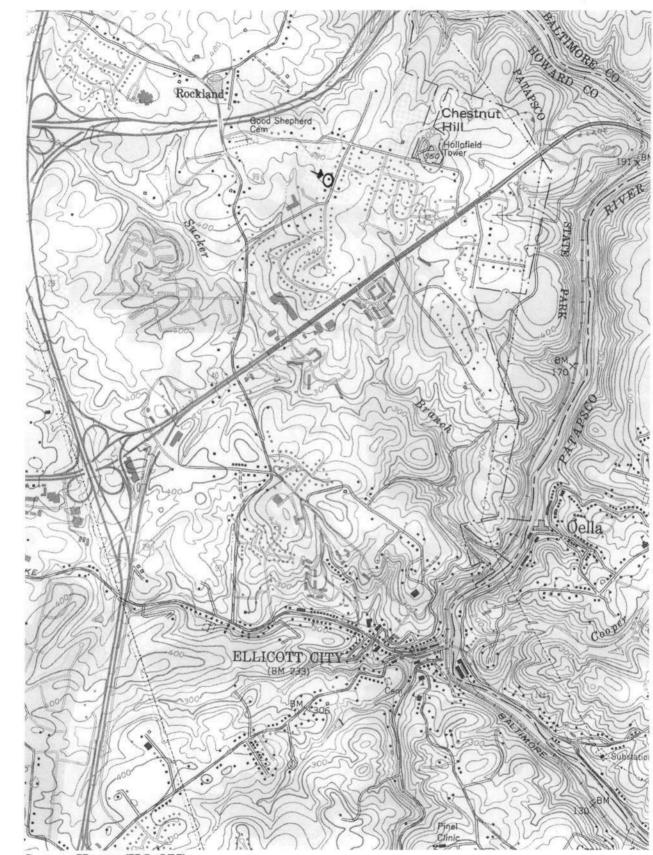
H. 375 Swartz House 8432 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City Howard County

CHAIN OF TITLE

	assigned the mortgage to James Clark for the
	purpose of foreclosure and collection.



Swartz House (HO-875) 8432 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City Howard County *Site plan/Aerial photograph*



Swartz House (HO-875) 8432 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City Howard County USGS Ellicott City Quad



HO-875 Swartz House Howard County, MD Jennifer Good March 2005 MD SHPD N. I-1.1 View W. Shows front facade and gavage.



40.875 Swartz House Howard County, MD Jennifer 60010 March 2005 1-2121 MO SHPD View NE. Shows side + rear facader and garage 2013



HO-875 Swartz House Howard County, MD Junifer 60010 March 2005 0(++0) 25-+-N N I-0Z0<8GS*PN> MO SHPO Show interior view from dining View N. room to living room. 3063