

Kraft Home Place
HO-894
3871 Old Columbia Pike, Ellicott City
Howard County
Ca. 1865
Private

The Kraft Home Place is located on Old Columbia Pike just west of the Ellicott City Historic District in Howard County, Maryland. The building, now used as a funeral home, is set near the road on a long, narrow 6-acre lot. Parking for the funeral home is located behind the main building. There are three buildings on the property: the house, the garage, and an additional outbuilding once used in the Kraft's butchering business. The garage has been altered, or was constructed to, house hearses for the funeral home and does not contribute to the property. The back of the lot is wooded and has a broad vista into the Patapsco river valley beyond.

The funeral home is the main building on the property. The house (ca. 1865) is a 7x3-bay, 2 ½-story, wood-frame Italianate style house with 20th c. Queen Anne style additions, which is in excellent, altered condition. The house has a rectangular footprint and a cross-gable roof. The building is now covered with aluminum siding and retains wood windows and doors. An earlier photo of the house included in Joetta Cramm's **Historic Ellicott City: A Walking Tour**, shows that house with cedar shingle siding. The house has a 4-part composition that seems to reflect an original Italianate house with turn of the 20th century cross-gable additions and a later 20th c. 2-story veranda converted to a porte-cochere.

The Kraft Home Place is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Howard County History. The Kraft family were Howard County's most successful butchers. Andrew and Dorothy Kraft were German immigrants and represent the hardworking German-American families that settled in the Ellicott City area and rose to affluence. The Kraft family used their wealth and was highly active in the local real estate market. Dorothy Kraft and her children appear on many of the local deeds from the late 19th century through the middle of the 20th century. The Kraft Home Place was the family home for three generations. The extended family lived on the property and the butchering for their Main Street Ellicott City property took place behind the house.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-894

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Kraft Home Place (preferred)

other Stark Funeral Home

2. Location

street and number 3871 Old Columbia Pike __ not for publication

city, town Ellicott City __ vicinity

county Howard

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

name John and Doris Slack

street and number 3864 Old Columbia Pike telephone n/a

city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21043

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Land Records liber 471 folio 614

city, town Columbia tax map 25 tax parcel 27 tax ID number 02-244101

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 at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	2	1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	0	0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	0	0 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	0	0 objects
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	2	1 Total
		<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-894

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 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.

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The primary façade of the Kraft House faces north. The primary façade consists of a three-bay center section bookended by two slightly projecting end-gable wings. The entry opening is located in the eastern bay of the center section. The entry opening holds a four-bay Italianate style wood door famed by sidelights and a transom. The remaining six 1st-story window openings are elongated French window openings that hold pairs of two-light wood French windows topped by single light transoms. The 2nd story has a door opening over the main entry that holds a 12-light glazed wood door topped by a transom. Six 2nd story window openings are vertically aligned with the 1st story window openings. A gabled dormer projects from the front slope of the roof of the center section. The dormer is located just west of the entry bay and displays Italianate flourishes such as bracketed eaves and an arched upper sash. Each of the cross gables features a pent roof with a bracketed cornice enclosing the gable. A small, narrow window is centered in each gable.

An enormous 2-story veranda extends across the center section of the house. The veranda has widely spaced square posts, metal railings, and a flat roof deck. The roof deck has wood posts and railings. While the older photo of the building shows the porch with a 1st-story deck, the structure has been altered to serve as a Porte-cochere entrance for the funeral home.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-894

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1864, 1866, 1881, 1916, 1953, 1967 **Architect/Builder** unknown

Construction dates ca. 1860s, with later additions

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

The Kraft Home Place is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Howard County History. The Kraft family were Howard County's most successful butchers. Andrew and Dorothy Kraft were German immigrants and represent the hardworking German-American families that settled in the Ellicott City area and rose to affluence. The Kraft family used their wealth and was highly active in the local real estate market. Dorothy Kraft and her children appear on many of the local deeds from the late 19th century through the middle of the 20th century. The Kraft Home Place was the family home for three generations. The extended family lived on the property and the butchering for their Main Street Ellicott City property took place behind the house.

Owners

The Krafts, an extended family of Ellicott City butchers and property developers, lived at 3871 Old Columbia Pike from the 1860s-1950s. In 1851, Andrew Kraft, then 15, immigrated to the United States from Germany.¹ Butcher and farmer William Hughes provided him with employment. Upon retirement, Hughes sold the business to William H. Scott, who opened a shop on Main Street in Ellicott City.

In 1858, Andrew Kraft married Dorothy Leimbach. Dorothy came to Union Mills from Germany at age 6 and was employed in the mills by age 8. In 1864 and 1866, Andrew Kraft purchased the two sections of property on the Columbia Pike that comprise the Kraft Home Property from Dr. William Denny and his wife Henrietta. In 1860, William Denny (aged 64) – a physician, lived with his wife Henrietta (aged 60), Mary Denny (aged 60) – presumably William's sister, William and Henrietta's daughter Henrietta (aged 16), and African-American house servant Jacob Hall (aged 17).²

By 1870, the Kraft family, Andrew (aged 35) – a butcher, his wife Dorothy (aged 31), and children Mary (aged 11), Clara (aged 8), Charles (aged 6), Margaret (aged 3), and Andrew (aged 1), lived next door to Henrietta and Mary Denny.³ By 1873, the Kraft's were butchering the meat for their Ellicott City shop and deliveries at the home property. "With a horse and wagon, [Mr. Kraft] sold meats in Elkridge, Oella and Ilchester. Several years later, he opened a butcher shop in the store that Mr. Scott had recently vacated on the south side of Main street."

In 1881, Andrew Kraft died at age 42. Dorothy Kraft proved to have outstanding business acumen and continued the enterprise after her husband's demise. The family organization "whose motto has been – "all for one and one for all" – and directed by a woman whose keen vision and talents mark her as a genius" served thousands over the years. By 1900, Dorothy lived at the Kraft home with

¹

² Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Eighth Census of United States: 1860, Population Schedule**, 2nd District, Ellicott Mills, Page 60.

³ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Ninth Census of United States: 1870, Population Schedule**, 2nd District, Ellicott City, Page 66.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-894

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

(aged 38), Charles (aged 36) – a butcher, Andrew (aged 32) – a butcher, Martin (aged 29) – a butcher, John (aged 29) – a butcher, Christina (aged 25), Louis (aged 23) – a butcher, and William (aged 20) – a student.⁴

In 1910, daughter Clara and sons Charles, Andrew, and Martin remained at home with Dorothy.⁵ John Kraft – butcher, had married and he and his wife Mary lived with daughter Mary (aged 4) and foster father Frederick Lish (aged 82).⁶ Lewis Kraft – also a butcher in his mother’s shop, lived on Court Street in Ellicott City with his wife Augusta (aged 30), their three children Helen (aged 5), Clara (aged 2), and Louis (aged 11 months), and a boarder Annie Dontell (aged 23), who worked as a silk weaver.⁷ William Kraft – a meat inspector, lived on Fels Lane in Ellicott City with his wife Edna (aged 27), and their daughter Dorothy (aged 7).⁸

Dorothy Kraft died in 1916. It was said that “she was a keen judge of human nature and did everything systematically. ...she was reported to be the richest woman in Howard County.” Clara, Andrew H. Martin L. John H. and Louis Kraft carried on the business under their mother’s name. By 1920, Andrew, John, and Martin Kraft lived adjacent to one another, presumably at the Kraft Home Property. Andrew (aged 51) lived with his sister Clara (aged 58). John (aged 46) lived with his wife Mary (aged 47) and their children John (aged 16) and Louise (aged 14).⁹ Martin Kraft (aged 48) lived nearby with his wife Anna (aged 49) and niece Ella Miller (aged 28) – an operator in a sewing factory.¹⁰ The obituary of Martin Kraft confirms the position that the Krafts held at the center of Ellicott City community:

The death of Martin L. Kraft at the age of 59 removes one of Howard County’s best loved citizens. Through childhood into middle age his honest, kindly face beamed on the boys and girls of Howard County who held him as their friend with uncompromising devotion.

His passing brings up a picture of other days not lightly to be set aside. Long days and cold nights when he made daily rounds with a horse and wagon serving his patrons with meat, before the automobile and its softening influence made it possible for him to greet his friends from the shop on Main street, Ellicott City. Hundreds of barefoot boys and girls, now grown to manhood days when they congregated about his wagon with the certain knowledge that he would, with a formality and smile that were peculiarly his own, pass to each a link of sausage and all will agree that no modern “hot dog” is relished as well.

Blessed with an abundance of this world’s goods, Mr. Kraft, through his entire life, was known as a sincere friend of the needy who went to him for friendly advice or financial assistance in times of stress with assurance of a heartfelt response. Many successful farmers and business men owe their start in life to the help extended by Mr. Kraft and other members of his family.

Besides his numerous personal charities, Mr. Kraft was not only a large contributor to First Lutheran Church, Ellicott City, of which he was a member, but rendered financial assistance to churches of all denominations when called upon.

⁴ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Twelfth Census of United States: 1900, Population Schedule**, E.D. 80, Sheet 12A.

⁵ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Thirteenth Census of United States: 1910, Population Schedule**, E.D. 51, Sheet 11A.

⁶ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Thirteenth Census of United States: 1910, Population Schedule**, E.D. 51, Sheet 3A.

⁷ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Thirteenth Census of United States: 1910, Population Schedule**, E.D. 50, Sheet 2B.

⁸ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Thirteenth Census of United States: 1910, Population Schedule**, E.D. 50, Sheet 4A.

⁹ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Fourteenth Census of United States: 1920, Population Schedule**, E.D. 118, Sheet 1A.

¹⁰ Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, **Fourteenth Census of United States: 1920, Population Schedule**, E.D. 58, Sheet 10A.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-894

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

In the business life of the community he was always in the lead for progress. More than a quarter of a century ago he gave considerable financial aid to projects for the betterment of Ellicott City and its environs, notably an early independent telephone venture and water-works of which the present system is an outgrowth. At the time of his death he was vice-president of the Patapsco National Bank of Ellicott City and was largely interested in a number of other Maryland corporations, besides the butchering business which he conducted with his brothers.

Simple in his tastes, genial and tolerant with his fellow man, Martin Kraft leaves a place in this community that will not be easily filled.

The Kraft's were also active real estate developers in Howard County. Mrs. Kraft and the Kraft Brothers appear again and again on the deeds of property developed in the late 19th c. through the WWII era. They maintained close ties with several builders in the area. For example, the executors of Clara Kraft's estate in 1953 were Emma K. Thompson and Ferdinand A. Kirn, German-American builders who developed property with the Krafts.

In 1953, after Clara Kraft's death, Frank and Cora Higinbothom bought the house, constructed an addition, and converted it to a funeral home. The Higinbothoms sold the property to the Slacks in 1967, who continue to use the house as a funeral home.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-894

Cramm, Joetta. **Historic Ellicott City: A Walking Tour**. Woodbine, MD: K&D Limited, Inc., 1996

Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census. **Census of United States: Population Schedule, 1860, 1870, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930**.

Hopkins, G.M. **Atlas of Howard County, Maryland, 1878**. Ellicott City, MD: Howard County Bicentennial Commission, Inc., 1975.

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

Kraft file at the Howard County Historical Society.

Martenet, Simon L. **Martenet's Map of Howard County, Maryland**. Baltimore, 1860.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 6.06 acres

Acreage of historical setting 6.06 acres

Quadrangle name Ellicott City

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of Kraft Home Place corresponds to Howard County Map 25, Grid 13, Parcel 27, which is the buildings' current and historical lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Jennifer Goold, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning	date	August 24, 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

HO-894
 Kraft Home Place
 3871 Old Columbia Pike, Ellicott City
 Howard County

CHAIN OF TITLE

Frank C. Higgenbothom and Cora E. Higgenbothom	John R. Slack and Doris T. Slack	07-01-1967	471	614	Deed	5.00	1) 121 perches 2) 5 acres and 50 square perches	The Grantors reserve unto themselves the right to occupy the 2 nd and 3 rd floors of said premises, as their living quarters, rent free, until November 15, 1967, at which time they shall entirely vacate said premises.
Emma K. Thompson and Ferdinand A. Kirn, Executors	Frank C. Higinbothom and Cora E. Higinbothom	05-20-1953	244	1	Deed	22,500	1) 121 perches 2) 5 acres and 50 square perches	Clara K. Kraft was at the time of her death seized and possessed of all those two lots or parcels of ground situate and lying on the Ellicott City to Clarksville State Road. Clara Kraft did by her Last Will and Testament dated 22 August, 1946 appoint Emma K. Thompson and Ferdinand A. Kirn Executors.
John F. Kraft and Ida B. Kraft; Mary Louise Boone and Lewis W. T. Boone	Clara K. Kraft	03-05-1947	197	528	Deed	5.00	1) 121 perches 2) 5 acres and 50 square perches	John F. Kraft and Ida B. Kraft; Mary Louise Boone and Lewis W. T. Boone conveyed their one-half interest in the property called the "Kraft Home Property". Being all and the same property which, by deed dated December 16, 1902, and recorded in Liber 76, folio 374 was granted by Charles W. Kraft, and other, they being the children and heirs of Andrew Kraft and Dorothy Kraft. Dorothy Kraft died leaving a will dated April 12, 1911 leaving the property to Charles W. Kraft, Andrew H. Kraft, Martin L. Kraft, and Clara C. Craft. Charles W. Kraft by his will dated February 10, 1914 left his interest in the property to Dorothy Kraft for life and then unto Clara C. Kraft and upon her death

HO-894
 Kraft Home Place
 3871 Old Columbia Pike, Ellicott City
 Howard County

CHAIN OF TITLE

								<p>or marriage then to Martin L. Kraft and Andrew H. Kraft.</p> <p>Upon the death of Clara C. Kraft, her interest and estate in the property by deed of partition between Mary E. Bastian and others, dated August 21, 1931, and recorded in Liber 142, folio 1 was granted and conveyed to Andrew H. Kraft and Anna L. Kraft, the widow of Martin L. Kraft.</p> <p>The said Anna L. Kraft departed this life leaving a last will and testament dated March 2, 1931 left the property to Andrew H. Kraft for life and after his death to John H. Kraft.</p> <p>John H. Kraft died on May 22, 1943 and left his heirs as John F. Kraft and his wife Ida B. Kraft and Mary Louise Boone and her husband Lewis W. T. Boone, a one-half undivided interest in the "Kraft Home Property".</p> <p>Andrew H. Kraft died and leaving a last will and testament dated May 18, 1940 and left his one-half interest in the property to his wife Clara K. Kraft.</p>
Charles E. Kraft, et al.	Dorothy Kraft	12-16-1902	76	374	Deed	5.00	1) 121 perches 2) 5 acres and 50 square perches	<p>Et al. = Mary E. Bastian and Henry Bastian, her husband; Clara C. Kraft, Charles W. Kraft, Margaret C. Hillsinger, Andrew H. Kraft, Martin L. Kraft, John H. Kraft, William E. Kraft and Edna L. Kraft, his wife, and Lewis E. Kraft and Christina Kraft, children and heirs at law of Andrew Kraft, deceased. Dorothy Kraft was the widow of Andrew Kraft.</p>
Henrietta Denny, et al	Andrew Kraft	12-08-	26	223	Deed	1062.50	2) 5 acres	<p>Et al. = R. Augustus Denny and Elizabeth Denny, his wife (Baltimore City), Frederick H. Hoban and</p>

HO-894
 Kraft Home Place
 3871 Old Columbia Pike, Ellicott City
 Howard County

CHAIN OF TITLE

		1866					and 50 square perches	Henrietta, his wife (Nashville, TN). William Denny died leaving his wife Henrietta surviving him and R. Augustus Denny, William Denny, and Henrietta Hoban, for Henrietta Denny, his only children and heirs at law
Andrew Kraft and Doreta Kraft	The Catonsville Building Association	01-01-1864	23	11	Mortgage	426.50	1) 121 perches	
Dr. William Denny and Henrietta Denny	Andrew Kraft	01-01-1864	23	9	Deed	800.00	1) 121 perches	



Distance: ft

Zoom: 2140.0 ft



Kraft Home Place (HO-894)
3871 Old Columbia Pike, Ellicott City
Howard County, Maryland
Site plan/Aerial photo



Distance: ft

Zoom: ft



Kraft Home Place (HO-894)
3871 Old Columbia Pike, Ellicott City
Howard County, Maryland
Site plan/Aerial photo



The Kraft home was enlarged for the Higinbothom Funeral Home. Today it is the Slack Funeral Home, operated by John Slack.

Kraft Home Place (HO-894)
3871 Old Columbia Pike, Ellicott City
Howard County, Maryland
ca. 1950s photo of the Higinbothom Funeral Home

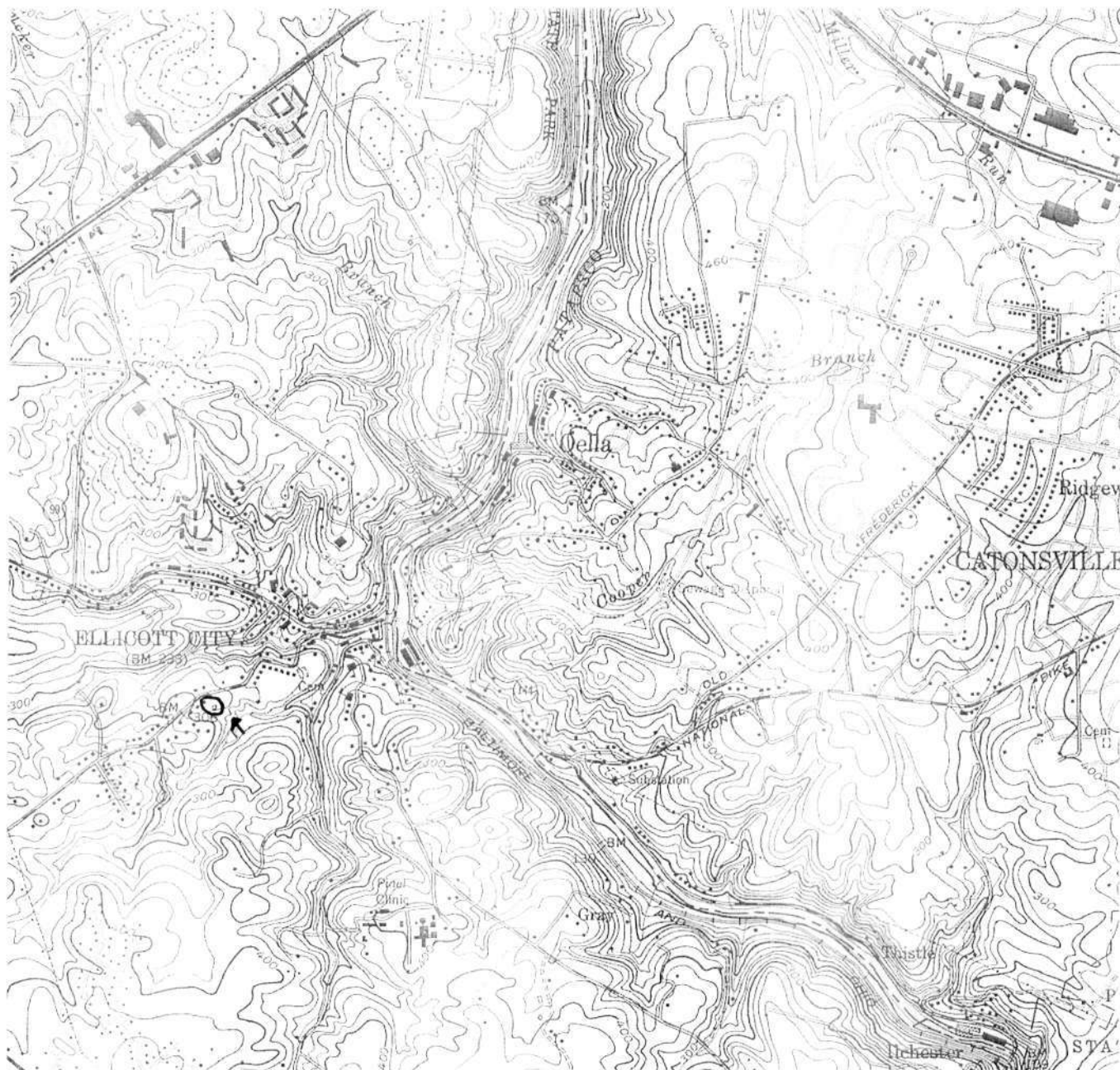
SECOND DISTRICT

HOWARD COUNTY

Scale 2 Inches per Mile



Kraft Home Place (HO-894)
3871 Old Columbia Pike, Ellicott City
Howard County, Maryland
1878 Hopkins Atlas



Kraft Home Place (HO-894)
3871 Old Columbia Pike, Ellicott City
Howard County, Maryland
USGS Ellicott City Quad



SLACK
FAMILY HOME

HO-894

Kraft Home Place

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

2013 11 -02 11:11:11 - 6428

10/05

MD SHPO

View S. shows front facade

1 of 2



SLACK

HD-894

Kraft Home Place

Howard County, MD

Jennifer Gould

10/05

MD SHPO

View SE. Shows front & side facades.

2062